

for your information

Vol. 13 No. 9

December 2001/January 2002

www.james-city.va.us

Budget Preparation Begins

County departments and agencies are preparing to submit their two-year budgets for Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004. Attend the pre-budget hearing held during the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 7 p.m. and tell us what issues are important to you. The meeting will be held at the County Government Complex, 101 Mounts Bay Road, in the Building C Board Room. Board meetings are also televised live on County Government Cable Channel 48.

County Closings

James City County Offices, Community Centers, and Transit will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- Christmas - December 24 and 25
- New Year's Day - January 1
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - January 21 (Both Community Centers will be open & Transit will run)

What's New on The Web

County Board of Supervisors meeting reminders, emergency notifications, Parks and Recreation announcements, Business News, News for Neighborhoods, and your FYI can be emailed to your home or office. Visit the County web site to subscribe to our "Stay Informed" email lists. Click on "Stay Informed" and fill out the subscriber information.

INSIDE

▼ Welcome New Businesses

Promoting the Character of the Community

The third segment in a continuing series on what is being done to preserve the land and character of James City County.



James City County is one of the Williamsburg Land Conservancy's (WLC) strongest supporters. The WLC is dedicated to protecting and preserving significant natural, scenic and historic lands in the Historic Triangle. From providing input on the Comprehensive Plan to serving on government-appointed committees, the WLC's working relationship with the County government is a partnership dedicated to preserving the land, water and a way of life. Thanks to the support of individuals, businesses and the local government, the Land Conservancy currently protects over 600 acres of land. You can find out more about the WLC by calling 565-0343.

Mediation Program Wins Award

The County's Family Mediation Program has received the Virginia Municipal League's (VML) 2001 Achievement Award for populations between 35,001 and 90,000.



Pictured L to R: Board Member, Jay Harrison, Sr.; Social Work Supervisor, Iris Street; Social Worker, Mary Hubbard; and County Administrator, Sandy Wanner.

The Program provides mediation services to all families litigating custody or visitation issues. It's unique in that families are summoned

to appear at the County's Human Services Center for an educational orientation and a private dispute resolution evaluation session with a certified mediator instead of attending a traditional court hearing. Moving the location of the first official court contact away from the courthouse to a more neutral location is conducive to more families opting for mediation to settle their dispute without court intervention. The Program is a partnership among the Juvenile Court, the Division of Social Services, and community mediators.

Mark your calendars

- **January 8 - Pre-budget Hearing** (see page 1)
- **January 15 - Vehicle Decals available.** Personal property taxes must be paid by December 28 to receive the free decal by mail. Decals must be on the vehicle by February 15, 2002. For more information, call 253-6705.
- **January 31 - 2002 Dog Tags deadline.** Must have an original valid rabies certificate for each dog and the certificate must not expire before June 30, 2002. For prices and more information, call 253-6705.

Christmas Tree Recycling

After the holidays, recycle your tree at one of the County's Convenience Centers during regular operating hours. The trees are ground into mulch that is available free of charge to County residents at the Jolly Pond Convenience Center. Remember to remove the tree stand and decorations. The Convenience Centers are located at 107 Tewning Rd., 1204 Jolly Pond Rd., and 3127 Forge Rd. Centers will be open through the holidays except for December 25 and January 1. For more information, call 565-4000.

Attention Curbside Recyclers

• **Powhatan District**
Recyclables will not be collected Tuesday, Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. Your recycling will be collected Saturday, Dec. 22 and 29. Be sure to place your bin curbside by 7 a.m.

• **Stonehouse District**
Recyclables will be collected on Monday, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

Questions? Call the Recycling Office, 565-4000 or the Virginia Peninsula's Public Service Authority, 259-9850.

Family Newsletter Available

The Extension Office offers two free monthly newsletters for families. *Family FUNDamentals* is a year-long series of monthly newsletters designed to help families meet the challenges of today's changing world. *Parenting the First Year* provides practical parenting information during the baby's first year. To receive these free monthly publications, call Doris B. Heath at 566-1367.

Fire Safety

The Fire Department reminds us when using a fireplace or wood stove, always place ashes in a metal can or bucket and never in paper bags or cardboard boxes. When using portable heaters, keep them at least three feet away from furniture and bedding. Don't forget to check your smoke detectors. Questions? Call 220-0626.

Winter Weather Watch

If severe weather should cause delayed openings or force County offices to close, any changes in regular business hours will be broadcast over County Government Channel 48 and the following radio and television stations: WKOC - FM 93.7; WXEZ - FM 94; WMBG - AM 740; WRVA - AM 1140; WTKR - Channel 3 (CBS); WAVY - Channel 10 (NBC); and WVEC - Channel 13 (ABC). You can also call the County's Emergency Hotline Number, 875-2424 for information.

Greenway Master Plan in Progress

The County's Parks and Recreation and Planning staffs are collaborating to develop the Greenway Master Plan to help protect critical open spaces and link historic, cultural, natural, scenic, and recreational sites. This plan responds to citizen concerns in the 1997 County Comprehensive Plan about the loss of green space and community aesthetics. Citizens are encouraged to become involved by calling the "Tell Us What You Think Line" at 259-3241.

Upcoming Parks and Recreation Events

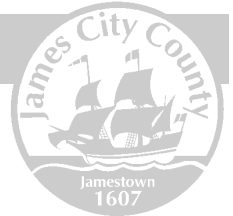
- **Boards and Blades** - (Ages 5 - 8 only) Saturdays, 9 - 11 a.m. at the new Skate Park located across from the James City/Williamsburg Community Center (JCWCC) 5301 Longhill Rd. All skaters must wear appropriate safety gear.
- **Celebration in Lights** - (Ages 5 - 12) Dec. 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Meet at JCWCC for a chaperoned bus tour to see Celebration in Lights at Newport News Park. \$7 per child. For information, call 259-3223.
- **Super Saturday** - (Ages 5 - 11) Dec. 15, 12 - 3 p.m. Bring your children to the Historic Triangle Community Center on Waller Mill Road and have three hours to complete your last minute shopping! \$5 per child. Registration is required, 259-3200.
- **The Winter/Spring Parks and Recreation Brochure** will be available Dec. 12. Look for copies in *The Virginia Gazette*, County government buildings, and on-line at www.james-city.va.us.

County's First Water Smart Community

Visit Mulberry Place, the County's first residential community to earn the Water Smart designation. Mulberry Place is a new residential development on Centerville Road next to D. J. Montague Elementary School. The homes, built by Wayne Harbin Builders, feature water efficient appliances, fixtures, and irrigation systems. Each home comes with state-of-the-art drip irrigation for turf to reduce the amount of irrigation water lost to evaporation and wind. An average family can save more than \$500 annually.



neighborhood news



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So You Are A Homeowners Association Board Member Now

By Bethany Halle, AMS, PCAM
Community Resources of Virginia, Inc.

Tips to make your term as a director a successful one

- **Learn the governing documents.**
They tell you what you can and cannot do, and also tell you the association's responsibilities.
- **Understand your job.**
As a director you must understand and follow the policies and procedures of your association and also work with the needs and wants of the members.
- **Be prepared and show up.**
Come to Board meetings prepared. Read the information provided to you before the meeting.
- **Build a team.**
Work together and make sure that you are all trying to accomplish the same goals.
- **Plan for the future.**
Remember that you may not serve on the Board of Director's forever, but the community will be there for years to come.

2002 Neighborhoods Conference

Looking for a way to become involved in your neighborhood association? Interested in designing the perfect landscape? Or have you recently moved to the area and want to learn about your local government? If so, then mark your calendar for Saturday, February 23, 2002, to attend the 5th Annual Neighborhoods Conference. This year's event will be held 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lafayette High School, 4460 Longhill Road. Come and join your neighbors for a day of networking, learning, and fun.



This year's Conference will feature more than 35 workshops designed to encourage residents to share ideas on how they can make their neighborhoods better and how they, in turn, can make their cities, counties, and their region a better place to live. Some of the topics include communicating with your local government, retirement issues, and making small home repairs. Workshops for elementary, middle, and high school youth will also be offered.

Registration is free to all residents of James City County and the City of Williamsburg. Continental breakfast, lunch, transportation, and childcare for children ages 3 to 5 will be provided free of charge.

For more information, contact the Neighborhood Connections office at 229-7630.

County News for Neighborhoods

Need information about upcoming neighborhood events and training that may benefit your community? Communications and Neighborhood Connections now offers an email subscriber list called "County News for Neighborhoods." It's easy to become a subscriber if you have access to the internet. Just click on "Stay Informed" on the County web site (www.james-city.va.us) and submit your email information in the mailing list subscriber box. Your email address remains with the County and will not be shared with any other organization or subscription list. It's easy and quick and best of all, you can share important information in your neighborhood. Questions? Call 229-7630 or visit our web site.

fyi for your information

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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 or log on to www.james-city.va.us.

- Editor: Renee Dallman
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From Our Readers

By Robert Moore, Brook Haven.

The Brook Haven Community Association recently held its third annual picnic. Fifty people attended, a great turn out for a small neighborhood of 33 homes. The school children in the community were awarded certificates for their academic and attendance accomplishments and, there was a bake-off for best desserts. First place went to Greta Parrott, 2nd place to Doris Allison, and 3rd place to Martha Graham. It was an afternoon of fun and good fellowship.

Would you like to have your neighborhood event featured in FYI? Call 229-7630.

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