



James City County's Progress Report

Chairman's Message



2002 Board of Supervisors members (standing left to right): Board Chairman, Jim Kennedy, Stonehouse District; Jay Harrison, Berkeley District; (seated left to right) John McGlennon, Jamestown District; Michael Brown, Powhatan District; and Bruce Goodson, Roberts District.

Over the past year, County citizens, staff, and the Board of Supervisors worked to maintain a healthy balance of growth and services in James City County. We made progress to preserve

land through the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program. Two water education programs won top environmental awards. The opening of the Chickahominy Riverfront Park provided citizens more access to our waterways.

The County's strong tax base, economic diversity, and conservative financial goals translated into bond rating

increases from both the Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's rating agencies. The new bond ratings will result in lower interest costs on future County debt. Yet, challenges remain as shortfalls in State budget funding continue and land and water protection initiatives remain a high priority.

This fall, the County will update its Comprehensive Plan - our guide for future growth and services. The year-long update process, titled *Vision For Our Future*, begins in September. There will be many opportunities for you to make a difference. I urge you to come forward and become part of the process.

Jim Kennedy, Chairman,
James City County Board of Supervisors

A Year of Challenges

Security, Growth, and Budgets

Security

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, changed all of us. As the nation confronted the tragedy, James City County faced a significant increase in requests for Police, Fire, and Emergency services. County officials investigated more than 150 calls ranging from suspicious activities and packages to bomb threats. We remain on high alert. Some of the training, modifications, and implementations made by Fire and Police personnel since September 11 include:

- attendance at the Homeland Defense School in Roanoke;
- participation in the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System's Strike Team Operations subcommittee; and,
- creation of a new Records Management System for more accurate reporting and crime analysis.

Growth

According to the 2000 Census, James City County's population grew to 48,102, a 38 percent increase over 1990 figures. New residents and corporate citizens continue to expect high quality services. Planning, building, and paying for these services and facilities, while preserving our quality of life, are challenges.

Budgets

Each Fiscal Year (FY) spans July 1 - June 30, and creating a fiscally responsible budget for FY 2003 and 2004 was difficult. The State budget reduced funding for education, youth programs, libraries, and public safety. As a result, the Board of Supervisors (Board) focused funds on making up shortfalls in critical areas such as teacher salaries, while other public services dropped programs or eliminated personnel.

A
Special
Report
For
James
City
County
Citizens

New Programs, Services, and Facilities

The Purchase of Development Rights Program (PDR)

was established by the Board to protect our natural resources, open spaces, and farmland. The Program offers landowners the opportunity to enter into agreements to sell the development potential of qualifying property to the County while continuing to own and use their property. During the initial application period which ended in May, the County received 14 applications representing approximately 1,185 acres.

Long-term water solutions

took shape as the Board approved a new Groundwater Treatment Facility. A major component of the James City Service Authority's (JCSA) master plan, the Facility will reduce the community's reliance on the Chickahominy-Piney Point Aquifer by providing high-quality drinking water from the Lower Potomac Aquifers.



Two water storage tanks capable of holding one million gallons of water are being built on Monticello Avenue to meet future water storage needs and strengthen the overall JCSA water system. The water storage facility is part of the JCSA Master Water Infrastructure Plan.

Let's Be Water Smart,

a JCSA water conservation program, won the 2002 Virginia Environmental Stewardship Award in Communications and Education. The program offers workshops on drought tolerant plants, displays at local nurseries, and an ongoing media campaign. Some 26 Water Smart partners representing the landscaping, nursery, and irrigation industries took part in the program.



The new Groundwater Treatment Facility, located on Route 5, will be operational by December 2004.

Cap It,

a JCSA program to properly seal abandoned old wells, began as another way to protect groundwater, local rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. Fifty-two wells were properly abandoned in this year. The program was awarded the EPA Region III Source Water Protection Award for the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Grants

County departments received more than **\$800,000 in grants** to help offset the costs of services, building improvements, and new programs. Some of the recipients included:

Parks and Recreation

\$247,000 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for the District Park Sports Complex Phase III, and the Basketball Complex;

\$26,100 from the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program for Powhatan Creek Park.

Police

\$49,000 from the Department of Criminal Justice Services for two School Resource Officers.

Fire

\$20,000 from the Williamsburg Community Health Foundation for Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's); \$20,000 from Anheuser Busch towards the purchase of a thermal imaging camera.

Williamsburg Regional Library

\$10,000 from the Millbrook Press and \$10,000 as the recipient of 2001 Lee Elliot Memorial Grant, both grants were for Williamsburg Regional Library Youth Services.



New Programs, Services, and Facilities

Stormwater

runoff that can degrade water quality was addressed this year as the County rapidly expanded efforts to manage stormwater. One initiative was the development of the Powhatan Creek Watershed Management Plan. The Plan analyzed current environmental trends in the watershed and recommended actions that can be taken to better protect our natural resources.

Environmental Protection

continued as citizen volunteers learned about wetland restoration as a watershed protection tool. The volunteers planted 600 wetland plants at the stormwater facility on Longhill Road.

The Greenway Master Plan,

the first for the County, was approved in June. Greenways are described as linear open spaces managed for conservation, recreation, and/or alternative transportation uses. The Greenway Plan seeks to protect our environment while providing citizens interconnecting trails to neighborhoods, parks, schools, community services, and places of community interest.

Recreation

remains an important part of requested services as indicated by the 2001 Citizen Survey. The County took major steps to fulfill its commitment to recreation.

Highlights include:

■ Chickahominy Riverfront Park

The County purchased the 140-acre Powhatan Resort Campground on the Chickahominy River. The Park provides citizens with camping facilities, a swimming pool, fishing pier, a small driving range and a boat ramp.

■ James City County Skate Park

The 10,000 square-foot skate park opened in October. The facility was built in response to citizen requests for more youth recreational activities.



After years of searching for a waterfront park site, the County purchased the Chickahominy Riverfront Park (above). Located on Route 5, the Park provides access to the Chickahominy and James Rivers.



Left: The Skate Park was designed with input from youth and a group of parents and skaters.

Awards

Significant recognition for recreation, human services, and library programs

2002 Virginia Public Library Director's Award for Young Adult Programs - The Croaker Cabaret



The Williamsburg Regional Library dedicated two sculptures created by Staunton artist, Willy Ferguson, in April. Pictured above is the sculpture of books - a classic image of three volumes held together by an old belt.

National Recreation and Parks Association Gold Medal Award finalist

Virginia Recreation & Parks Association Best Promotional Effort - 2001 Annual Report

NACo Award - District Park Sports Complex and the Youth Sports Expo Program

Virginia Municipal League Outstanding Program - Family Mediation Program

New Programs, Services, and Facilities

■ District Park Sports Complex, Phase III

Projects began this year with the construction of one baseball field and four tee-ball fields, and the installation of playground and picnic facilities.

■ District Park, Phase I

Initiatives included the award of a contract to pave the entrance road and clear open spaces. The Park, located at the intersection of Longhill and Centerville Roads, is scheduled for completion next July.

■ Little Creek Reservoir Park

Projects included a pedestrian bridge, boat ramp, picnic shelter, trail design, restroom facility, playground, sidewalks, and paving of parking lots.

□ The Court Support Building,

located behind the Williamsburg/James City County Courthouse, opened as a regional effort to provide court-related services in one building, improving customer service to citizens.

□ Youth Services

were a priority as a Strategic Plan was approved by the Board. The Plan focuses on four goal areas: increased coordination of programs and services, family involvement, improved access to services, and increased communication and collaboration with the schools.

□ The Williamsburg Area Transport (WAT)

offered citizens of James City County, the City of Williamsburg, and the Bruton District of York County a new transportation system.

Right: The new WAT service provides a seamless coordinated regional transit system that serves residents, visitors, and students.



□ The Williamsburg Regional Library

Board of Trustees approved a new four-year Strategic Plan for system operations. The plan emphasizes partnerships with other organizations and marketing of library services and programs.

□ The Comprehensive Plan,

the County's "road map" for growth, began its update process. The Board approved a County-wide survey to solicit citizen opinions on many issues. The results will serve as discussion topics during the upcoming year-long revision process.

□ Communications

with citizens was enhanced through the County's web site (jccEgov.com) and use of E-Mail subscriber lists. New telecommunications systems to improve customer service were extended and installed at the Emergency Operations Center, the Law Enforcement Center, the Court Support Building, Fire Station 5, and the Community Video Center.

Regional Efforts

The Board of Supervisors and County staff continued their commitment to improve services by participation in a number of regional initiatives:

- Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
- Regional Raw Water Study Group
- Merrimac Center
- Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail
- Crossroads Group
- King William Reservoir
- Williamsburg Regional Library System
- VA Peninsula Public Service Authority
- Peninsula Alliance Economic Development

New Voting Districts

By law, local election districts must be revised to ensure equal representation by elected officials. A redistricting plan, prepared by a committee of local citizens, was adopted by the Board in May.

The major shifts include:

- Kingspoint and former Jamestown C Election District (James Terrace) moved to the Roberts District.
- Jamestown District was adjusted by adding the Midlands and Indigo Park to the District to balance the changes in the other Districts.
- Ford's Colony was relocated to the Powhatan District, Governor's Land, and Greensprings West to Berkeley District.
- Norge, including Kristiansand subdivision, was moved into the Stonehouse District.

Citizen Involvement and Two-Way Communication

Conferences, Training, and Developing Community Leaders

▣ Citizen Fire and Police Academies

Twelve citizens graduated from this year's Citizen Fire Academy and 34 participated in the Police Academy. Both training opportunities offer participants an inside look at the County's public health and safety initiatives.

▣ Neighborhood Connections

is a County sponsored partnership with citizens to facilitate neighborhood-based activities and events. Five neighborhoods joined the program last year, bringing the total to 113 connected neighborhoods. The program provides many workshops and events to support our growing community such as the 2002 Neighborhoods Conference.

■ Other initiatives include Neighborhood Network Meetings to increase two-way communication with citizens; the Citizen Leadership Academy, a combined effort between Community Services and Neighborhoods; the Legal Aspects for Homeowners Associations; ABC's training which teaches the basics of day-to-day management of homeowners associations; and the Citizen's Orientation.

▣ The 2002 Neighborhood Conference

attracted more than 550 participants from the James City County, Williamsburg, and York County communities. The annual day-long event offers workshops, displays, and youth programs.



County residents attended the annual Citizen's Orientation presented by County Administrator, Sandy Wanner. The Orientation details County government, services, and facilities.



Residents from Chickabominy Road and Toano Middle School Principal (above) received the 2002 Neighborhood of the Year Award for Neighborhood/ School Partnerships. Master Gardeners (left) were one of fifty displays at the 2002 Neighborhood Conference.

ABC's, A Basic Course for Homeowner Association Leaders, was held in March. Thirty-five citizens (right) attended the day-long session which deals with the laws affecting a community association, the role of the board, preparing an annual operating budget, problem solving, enforcing restrictions, risk control, and insurance. The Course is presented in partnership with the Community Associations Institute.

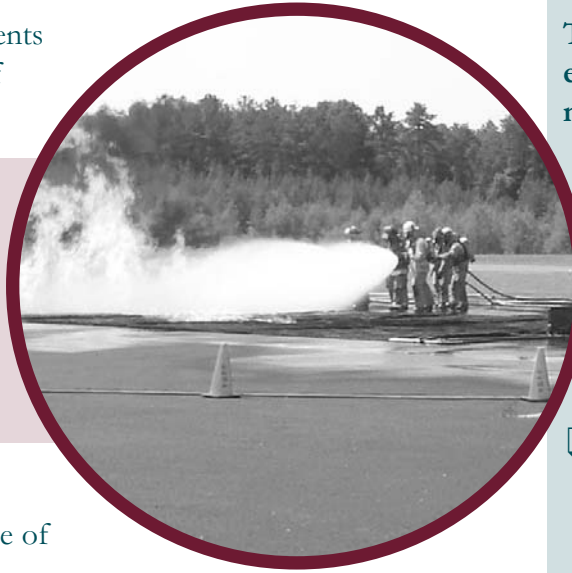


Public Safety in FY 02

Fire

- Total Incidents Answered: 6,544 (an increase of almost 1,000 from FY 01)
 - Emergency Medical Service Calls: 4,148 - 64 percent of total incidents
 - Actual Fires: 322 - five percent of total incidents

In preparation for the 2003 Aviation World's Fair at Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport, the Fire Department sent 90 percent of its uniformed staff to Aircraft Crash Fire Training (right). The training consisted of a full-day of classroom and a half-day of live fire simulation training.



Police

- Calls for Service: 17,678 - an increase of 10.7 percent over FY 01.
- Part One Crimes (serious crimes): 1,642 - increased by 1.1 percent over FY 01.
- Clearance Rate (number of crimes cleared by arrest or exceptional means): 51.5 percent.

Ongoing Efforts

The County continues to enhance our quality of life, now and in the future by:

- Seeking water supply sources
- Supporting area tourism
- Continuing to bury overhead utility lines
- Planning 2007 with State and Federal agencies
- Exploring ways to share services with the City of Williamsburg and WJC schools
- Enhancing affordable housing opportunities
- Providing additional programs for youth

FY 02 Economic Development Highlights

The Wal-Mart Import Distribution Center

expanded by one-million square feet, creating another 150 jobs. The company's total capital investment in the County totals more than \$60 million and 300 jobs.

AVID Medical,

which packages kits for use in surgery and other medical procedures, plans to double the size of its facility in Stonehouse Commerce Park.

The Industrial Development Authority

selected the James River Commerce Center in the Roberts District as the site for its second industrial shell building. Shell buildings are used to attract new industries by providing them with existing space. The buildings are finished on the outside, but left unfinished inside for custom design by the user.

Incogen,

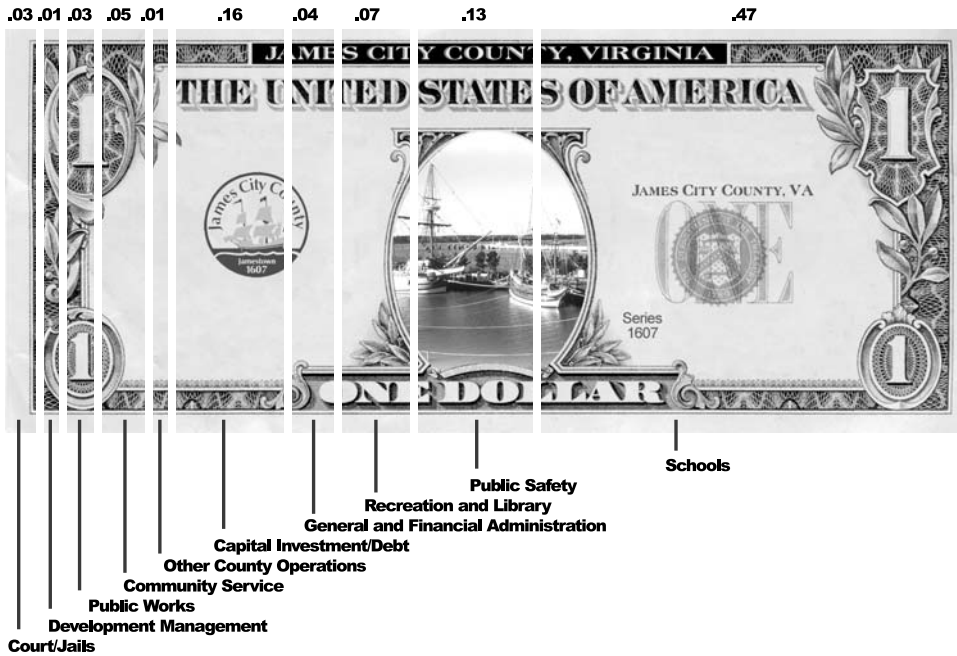
a bioinformatics company, relocated from out-of-state to temporary office space, but will move to the proposed technology park section of the New Town development. Working with the College of William and Mary, the company was awarded over \$2 million in State research grant funds.



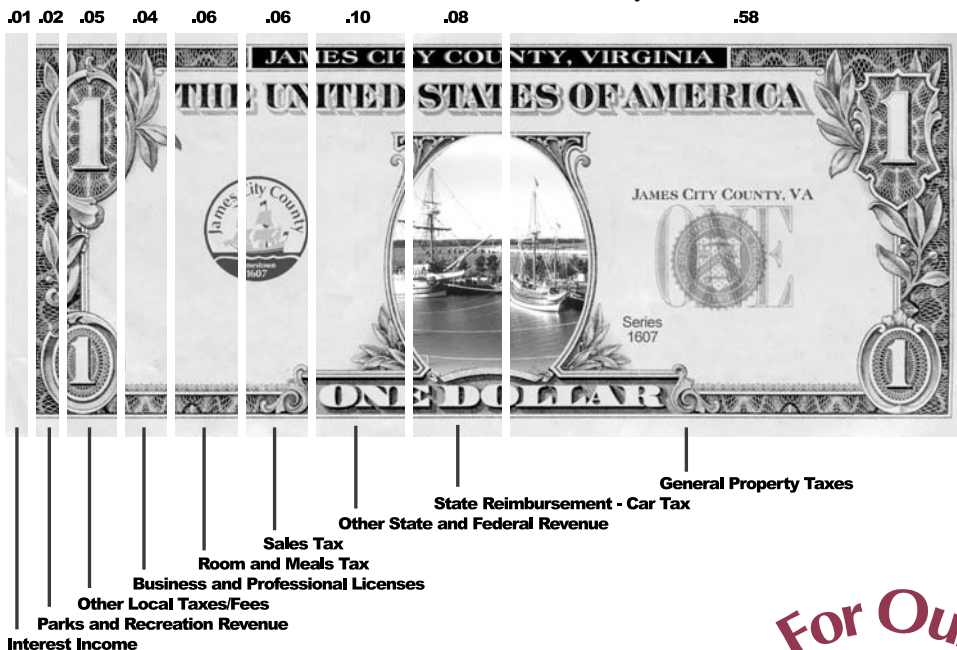
AVID Medical's investment in the County totals more than \$5 million with a total work force of 250.

FY 2002 - How each dollar in the County was spent...

Let's say all the County spends each year to provide the tax-supported services in the Operating Budget became one hundred pennies (one dollar). If that were the case, here's how the 2001-2002 pennies were spent:



Where each dollar in the County came from...



Your Voice Can Be Heard!

How can you make a difference in the future planning of our County? Citizen feedback is essential as the County updates the Comprehensive Plan - its guide to growth. Many opportunities are being planned for your voice to be heard concerning future growth, services, and facilities.

Community Conversations are public meetings scheduled for November throughout the County. These Conversations will provide citizens a forum to learn about the Plan and provide their input in small group settings.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend one of the following

Community Conversations:

- Wednesday, November 6,**
7 - 9 p.m.
Clara Byrd Baker
Elementary School
 - Thursday, November 7,**
7 - 9 p.m.
James River Elementary
School
 - Wednesday, November 13,**
7 - 9 p.m.
Toano Middle School
 - Thursday, November 14,**
12 - 2 p.m.
James City/Williamsburg
Community Center
- For more information, call
253-6685.



Jamesstown
2003 Comprehensive Plan

www.jccEgov.com

James City County's Progress Report 2002

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- Parks and Recreation

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