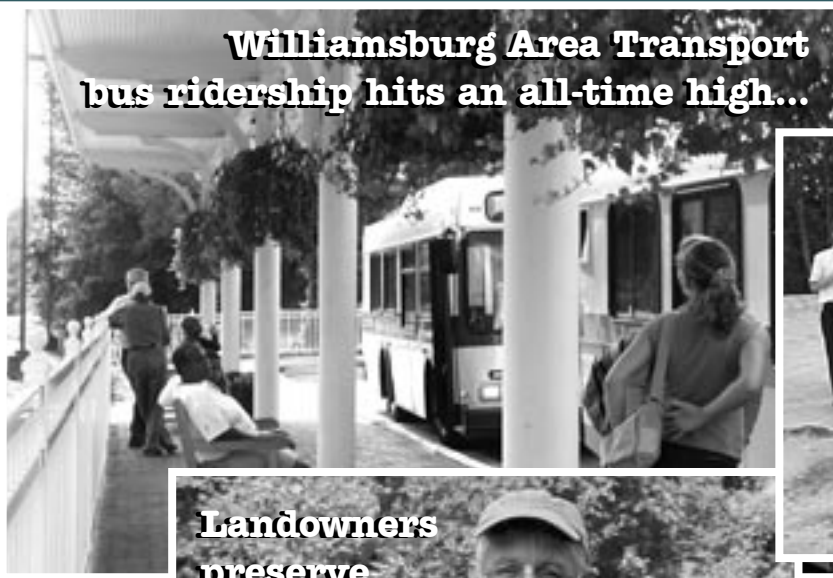


James City County's Progress Report

Williamsburg Area Transport bus ridership hits an all-time high...



Long-term water solutions break ground...



Landowners preserve the green...



Archaeological dig helps protect the past...



A
Special
Report
For
James
City
County
Citizens

...and citizen participation leads the Comp Plan process.



Chairman's Message

As Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, it is my honor to present to you James City County's Annual Progress Report. I want to take this opportunity to thank you – our citizens – for your tremendous support and participation in your local government this past year.

You supported County-wide initiatives through your participation in the Purchase of Development Rights Program, your willingness to conserve water during last summer's drought and now through these hot summer months, through the water quality program PRIDE, renaming of the District Park, a community tree planting, and most extensively, by sharing your "Vision For The Future" during the year-long public input phase of the Comprehensive Plan update process.

To ensure the highest quality of life and services for all citizens, the Board continues to invest in your future. Through the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Revenue Sharing program, the Board participated in the funding of the Jamestown/199 Corridor widening to ensure completion of this top road project before Jamestown's 400th birthday. We purchased land to reserve a site for a new high school and a co-located Thomas Nelson Community College campus. We maintained a high bond rating with our investors, allowing us to borrow for capital projects at low interest rates, and we strive to develop a financially sound budget that reflects the needs of our community. Yet, challenges remain as shortfalls in State budget funding continue and land and water protection initiatives remain top priorities.

There are many opportunities for you to make a difference in our community. I encourage you to stay involved and informed. Subscribe to the County's newsletter "FYI" by calling the Communications Office at 229-7630. Watch County government channel JCC TV48 for local government programming and for the live broadcast of Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission meetings. Log onto the County's website at www.jccEgov.com for the latest information on all events.

*Jay Harrison, Chairman,
James City County Board of Supervisors*



2003 Board of Supervisors.

Board members, pictured left to right, standing: Michael J. Brown, Powhatan District and Bruce Goodson, Roberts District/ Board Vice Chairman. Sitting: John McGlennon, Jamestown District; Jay Harrison, Berkeley District/Board Chairman; and Jim Kennedy, Stonehouse District.

Mission:

We work in partnership with all citizens to achieve a quality community.

James City County Goals:

- I. Balance Service Demands With Available Resources
- II. Enhance The Character Of The Community
- III. Ensure Broad-Based Citizen Involvement In Decision Making
- IV. Promote A Healthy Community

FY03 HIGHLIGHTS

Balance Service Demands With Available Resources

□ The County refinanced \$21.5 million of the remaining debt from its 1994 **General Obligation Bonds** at an interest rate of 2.71%, down from the original range of 5.1% to 5.44%, thereby saving County taxpayers \$100,000 annually and \$1.4 million over the remaining life of the Bonds. The Bonds, approved by citizens in a 1994 voter referendum, were sold to finance several projects including the construction and renovation of schools, a library, the parks, and the expansion of the Community Center.

□ The James City Service Authority (JCSA), which is supported solely by water and sewer service user fees, received a **Bond Rating** increase from both Moody's Investor Service (A1) and Standard & Poor's (AA) rating agencies. The new bond ratings will result in lower interest costs on future debt.

□ **Economic Development** highlights included the groundbreaking for *Avid Medical's* \$3.5 million expansion to

double its facility size and employment in the Stonehouse Commerce Park. The company, which packages, markets, and sells surgical kits, will add 45,000-square feet of warehouse space and another 150 jobs over the next three years.

Anheuser-Busch, Inc. announced plans for a three-year \$200 million modernization to its James City County brewery. Actual

building construction is anticipated to result in 750 temporary jobs. The brewery is already the County's largest taxpayer at \$4.8 million annually. Furniture and appliance dealer *Haynes* announced plans to build a \$15 million distribution

center in the GreenMount Industrial Park, bringing 120 jobs and an annual payroll of \$2.6 million. The 300,000-square foot warehouse will locate next to Wal-Mart in the GreenMount Industrial Park in the James River Enterprise Zone. *Keystone Auto Parts* (formally Landmark), a distributor of automobile collision replacement parts, announced plans to construct a 50,000-square foot building in the James River Commerce Center. The company expects to employ 30 people, many of whom will transfer from its present leased location in Newport News. The capital investment in the new facility is estimated at \$2,800,000. The facility, which will open this fall, recorded sales of \$3.6 million in 2002.

□ County departments were awarded \$2,894,651 in Federal and State **Grants**. These funds help offset the costs of services, building improvements, and new programs. (See *Grants* for a list of some of the recipients.)

□ **STRIVE**, a new prevention program for at-risk youth ages 11 to high school graduation, served 95 youth in 65 families last year. The program helps provide support to parents and caretakers raising adolescents, encourages academic achievement through tutoring and support, discourages substance abuse and early parenthood, and provides positive recreational opportunities for youth as an alternative to "the street."



Avid Medical employees are joined by members of the County's Economic Development team in December to celebrate the groundbreaking of AVID's expansion.

□ In its first year of operation, more than 80% of the 27 youth in the **Beyond The Bell** program maintained or improved their grade point average while more than 71% improved their conflict resolution skills. Participants volunteered more than 300 community service hours on four different projects. Beyond The Bell is a supervised after-school program for at-risk middle school-aged youth to improve their academics, prevent substance abuse, enhance social skills, and strengthen parental involvement.

GRANTS:

- ❑ **Williamsburg Area Transport** - \$356,858 Federal Mass Transit Grant for general expenses and vehicle support; and \$231,884 State Formula Assistance Grant for general expenses.
- ❑ **Police** - \$32,690 School Resource Officer Grant; \$21,682 Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant for polygraph equipment and training; and \$127,212 CAD System Grant for computer aided dispatch.
- ❑ **Parks & Recreation** - \$64,487 Title V Grant for the youth at-risk program Beyond The Bell; \$150,000 District Park Sports Complex Grant for construction of a 3.4 mile multi-purpose trail along park perimeter; \$3,943 Chesapeake Water Marshals Camp Grant for the three-day youth camp to learn bay-related facts, complete a bay clean-up, and to monitor local water quality; and \$5,040 Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Grant to assist with youth camps.
- ❑ **Purchase of Development Rights (PDR)** - \$295,632 USDA Farmland Protection Program Grant to assist in the purchase of development rights from County owners of rural, agricultural, forest, or open space lands.
- ❑ **Colonial Community Corrections (CCC)** - \$485,837 Pretrial Grant and a \$23,827 Papis Grant for CCC operations.
- ❑ **Victims Assistance** - \$96,094 Victim's Assistance Grant for operating expenses.
- ❑ **Clerk of the Circuit Court** - \$68,800 State Compensation Board Technology Grant for technology upgrades.
- ❑ **Community Development** - \$939,629 Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program Grant to provide rental assistance for low income families and funds for a Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator; and a \$2,280,000 loan commitment from the Virginia Housing Development Authority's Sponsoring Partnerships and Revitalizing Communities (SPARC) to provide reduced interest rate mortgages for first time homebuyers.
- ❑ **Fire** - \$138,000 Department of Homeland Defense Fire Grant for candidate physical ability testing, program testing, and the firefighter wellness program; \$104,779 in grants from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for preparation and response to weapons of mass destruction incidents, annual operations and improvements in radiological preparedness and emergency response, and to assist with the establishment of the Community Emergency Response Teams and the Citizens Corps; and \$38,547 in Rescue Squad Assistance Grants for a Type III Ambulance and for emergency alert radio pagers.

Award Winning Programs

- **Chickahominy Riverfront Park** – National Association of Counties (NACo) 2003 Achievement Award
- **Powhatan Creek Watershed** – NACo 2003 Achievement Award
- **Greenway Master Plan** - NACo 2003 Achievement Award
- **Greenway Master Plan Process and Approval** - 2003 National Association of County Park & Recreation Officials (NACPRO) Merit Award/Environmental
- **Cap-It** - NACo 2003 Achievement Award/Environmental Protection and Energy
- **Camp Marine Marshals Parks & Recreation** - 2003 NACPRO Merit Award/Programs
- **Jim Dorsey, Vice Chair Parks & Recreation Commission** - 2003 NACPRO Merit Award/Outstanding Public Official
- **James City County** – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Award/Gold Level Partner, 2003 Chesapeake Bay Partner Program
- **2003 Comprehensive Plan Update** - 2003 Public Awareness Award from the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association (VAPA)
- **Williamsburg Area Transport** - Virginia Transit Association's 2003 Innovative Program Award for Small Systems; Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) 2003 Achievement Award/Honorable Mention, 2002 A Year of Partnerships for James City County's Transit Division
- **Automatic External Defibrillator Program** - NACo 2003 Achievement Award
- **Working Towards Wellness** - NACo 2003 Achievement Award
- **4th Grade Learn-To-Swim** - NACo 2003 Achievement Award

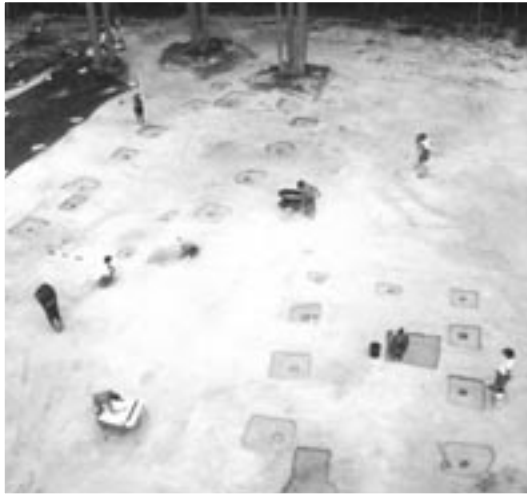
FY03 HIGHLIGHTS

Enhance The Character Of The Community

□ In the first year of accepting applications through the **Purchase of Development Rights** (PDR) Program, the Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of conservation easements on four land parcels, totaling 363.9 acres, for \$1,087,000. PDR is a voluntary program designed to protect open-space, community character, farmland, and natural resources in the County through the acquisition of development rights from property owners.



Norma Wyatt (left) and granddaughter Kathleen Fuller visit the Hick'ry Hill Farm in Lanexa. The farm is owned by Randall Davis, a participant in the County's PDR program.



Historical evidence revealed the Freedom Park location as a previously unknown homestead built between 1680 and 1730, the site of the June 26, 1781 Revolutionary War Battle of Spencer's Ordinary, and as the site of the first Free Black Settlement in America in 1803.

□ **Freedom Park** was chosen as the new name for the District Park from a pool of 26 suggestions from citizens. As part of the environmental protection process, archaeological investigations were conducted at the park site location at the intersection of Longhill and Centerville roads.

□ To beautify James City, more than 140 citizens donated 400 hours of their time in a **Community Tree Planting** to help plant more than 5,500 seedling trees at various parks, schools, and community corridors throughout the County.

□ Following the purchase of the

Chickahominy Riverfront Park last year, more than 200 tons of trash and debris were cleaned from the site, and major repairs and renovations to the pool, rest rooms, and signage were completed.

□ **PRIDE**, the educational component of the County's water quality program, was launched to educate citizens, neighborhoods, and businesses on the importance of watershed protection. PRIDE – Protecting Resources In Delicate Environments – offers its participants the opportunity to earn mini-grants and to engage in water protection activities like Best Management Practices (BMP) improvement, stream restoration, and tree plantings. In FY03, two communities earned PRIDE designations for their watershed protection efforts.

□ To ease traffic congestion, improve traffic access, and to beautify an important passageway in preparation of the Jamestown 2007 Commemoration, the **Jamestown/Route 199 Corridor Improvements** project was initiated. The project includes the widening of Route 199 to four lanes from Brookwood Drive to Route 60 east, adding turning lanes at the Jamestown Road/199 intersection, and reconstructing the entrance to the Jamestown Settlement on Jamestown Road.



Chickahominy Riverfront Park amenities include a golf driving range; jon boat, canoe, and kayak rentals; a large lighted boat ramp; a fishing pier; an outdoor shelter pavilion and picnic areas; a hiking trail; and a variety of camping sites.



FY03 HIGHLIGHTS

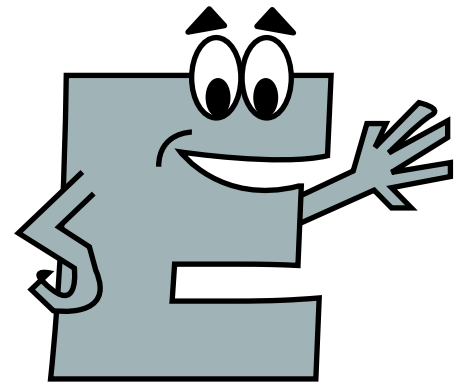
Ensure Broad-Based Citizen Involvement In Decision Making

☐ Citizen input guided a “Vision For The Future,” the year-long public input process for the County’s **2003 Comprehensive Plan Update** process. More than 3,000 comments were received via E-Mails, letters, mail-in cards, listening station postings, and attendance at a series of town meetings called “Community Conversations.” All comments were compiled and reviewed by the Community Participation Team (CPT) – a group of citizens who met weekly to plan and implement methods for encouraging citizen feedback in the 2003 process.

The CPT made special efforts to include youth in the 2003 Comprehensive Plan update process. Activities included a televised youth forum, youth workshops at the “Community Conversations,” and flyers and a listening station display in the schools.

☐ To provide citizens with more access to Electronic Government (E-Gov), the County launched a new marketing effort for www.jccEgov.com. Since the introduction of **E-Man**, a symbol for on-line services, the County web site has seen an increase of users accessing on-line registrations for Parks and Recreation activities and classes, E-mail subscriber lists, and local property information.

☐ The **Code Compliance Hotline**, an automated telephone voice response system, was created to give 24-hour access to citizens, contractors, design professionals, and developers seeking the status of permit application plan reviews and inspections. The Hotline is expected to be operational by fall.



E-Man assists computer users in finding government information.

FY03 HIGHLIGHTS

Regional Efforts

☐ **Williamsburg Area Transport** expanded its services by 80% which now includes service to the College of William and Mary and a new service route in Newport News that connects the community to all of Hampton Roads via Hampton Roads Transit (HRT). Bus ridership between July 2002 and June 2003 was 361,000 compared to 137,000 during the same period in FY02. Amenities now include a new state-of-the-art accessible bus fleet and the inclusion of the renovated Williamsburg Transportation Center as a new hub of service allowing connections to taxis, intercity buses, and Amtrak.

☐ The Williamsburg Regional Library System secured several important partnerships in FY03:

- In partnership with the County’s Neighborhood Connections Office, the James City County Library is now home to **Neighborhood Knowledge**, a collection of homeowners association publications and videos. Through this transfer, these materials are now more easily accessible to all residents.
- In partnership with Colonial Williamsburg, awarded the first **Beacon of Freedom Book Award** to *The Captain’s Dog* by Roland Smith. The award recognizes a book written for young adults dealing with American history between 1607-1865. Through participation in the award process, many grade 4 to 6 Williamsburg/James City County (W/JCC) school students enhanced their critical thinking and group decision-making skills.

FY03 HIGHLIGHTS

Promote A Healthy Community

☐ Operations began at the **Ironbound Water Storage Facility**, a major component of the James City Service Authority's (JCSA) ongoing efforts to meet customers' future water needs. The facility, located at Ironbound Road and Monticello Avenue, will increase the Authority's storage capacity by one million gallons, allowing the JCSA to better manage its water supply, and if needed, to purchase water from Newport News Waterworks.



☐ Groundbreaking ceremonies marked the beginning of the **Five Forks Groundwater Treatment Facility**, a structure that will double the County's available water supply by 2004 and reduce reliance on the Chickahominy Piney Point Aquifer. The facility, located behind Clara Byrd Baker Elementary School, will withdraw and treat water from the Middle and Lower Potomac Aquifers and should provide a 10-year supply of water.

☐ The County Fire Department replaced one of its aging fire trucks with the **Quint** (below right), a combination pumper and ladder truck, allowing the department to replace two trucks with one, providing better efficiency of service delivery to the citizens.

☐ The County Police Department received **State Accreditation** for its success in complying with over 200 mandated standards. The accreditation process requires compliance in every aspect of police work – from personnel, training, equipment, criminal and traffic arrests, to record keeping and budgets. Of the 400 eligible agencies, the County is one of only 43 State law enforcement agencies to achieve the status.

☐ Recognizing growth within the retired population, the Police Department developed a program that puts **Automated External Defibrillators** (AED) in every patrol vehicle. The AEDs provide emergency care to cardiac arrest patients until rescue personnel arrive. All patrol officers have been trained on equipment use.

☐ As part of its **Homeland Security** initiatives, James City County became part of the newly created Hampton Roads Medical Response Team, providing nine personnel members as Emergency Medical Responders. The team is a multidisciplinary effort to provide medical care to a large number of injured citizens during any natural disaster or after terrorist attacks.

☐ **"Knock, Knock, Who's There?"** an Emmy award-winning child abuse prevention program that teaches children how to recognize, avoid, and disclose abuse to a trusted adult, was presented at Stonehouse Elementary School in February. The puppet show performance has reached over 2.5 million children across the country.

☐ The **Ironbound Square Residential Revitalization Project** is a multiyear effort to improve housing conditions, eliminate blight, and preserve this centrally located neighborhood. In FY03, the first phase, which focused on housing rehabilitation, was completed and implementation of the Redevelopment Plan for 18 acres fronting on Ironbound Road began.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the opening of the

new Ironbound Water Storage Facility in May.

Pictured left to right: Henderson Inc. Contractor Pete Henderson; Design Engineer Eric Nice; Hopke and Associates Architect John

Hopke; Jamestown District Supervisor John McGlennon; Berkeley District Supervisor Jay Harrison; Roberts District Supervisor Bruce Goodson; JCSA General Manager Larry Foster; and County Administrator Sandy Wanner.



James City County Communications
 5248 Olde Towne Road, Suite 11
 Williamsburg, VA 23188-1923
 James City County
 General Information: (757) 253-6600
 Emergency Hotline: (757) 875-2424
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Editor: Veda McMullen
Layout/Design: Bernie Winslow

Photographers: Alain Outlaw
 Ed Overton
 Jody Puckett
 Paul Tubach
 Lisa Meddin
 Bernie Winslow

Distribution: Carole Giuliano

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The Budget

FY 2003 - How each dollar in the County was spent...

Let's say all the County spent last 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 2002-2003 pennies were spent:

