

F Y I

A report to the citizens of James City County

www.jccEgov.com

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For Your Information

Working In Partnership With All Citizens To Achieve A Quality Community



Developing The County's Budget

Much like the budget you develop for yourself or your family, James City County also develops its spending plan based on revenues and expenditures. County Administrator Sandy Wanner will soon present his proposed County budget for Fiscal Years 2005 and 2006. This edition of "FYI" details the key factors that play a vital role in developing a budget that reflects community needs while addressing the requirements of conducting business:

REVENUES

Taxes - The County gets its revenues through a variety of taxes and fees. The major sources of funds are the real estate tax, personal property tax, business license taxes, sales, room, and meal taxes and revenues from the State. The most significant source of revenue, as well as the only major source of revenue with significant growth, is the real estate tax.

Growth in the real estate tax comes from two different sources - new construction and reassessments. With new construction, as the County grows, so does the property tax base. Growth from reassessments results from annual adjustments in the tax assessment of properties to as close to 100% of estimated market value as possible. Many residential property owners recently saw reassessment increases of 10% or more - increasing tax payments for property owners even if the tax rate remains the same. By State law the County must reassess the values, but the County can also reduce the tax rate to make up for the increased assessment. The Board of Supervisors recently reduced the tax rate to offset part of the tax increase caused by reassessments.

Commonwealth of Virginia (State) - James City also gets revenue from the Commonwealth of Virginia, most of which deals with education. State education funding is primarily distributed by a formula called the "composite index," and this index assists communities in funding a minimum State educational program called the Standards of Quality (SOQ). The wealthier a community is, the higher the composite index, and therefore the less money it gets from the State. The State pays approximately 40% of each dollar spent for the SOQ and none of the dollars spent for programs that exceed the funded SOQ. In total, the State funds only 19 cents of each dollar spent on the County's K-12 schools. There are some Federal dollars, but most of the funding comes from local taxes.

Other State funding support comes in the form of car tax reimbursements and funding for State functions like the courts and constitutional offices.

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Budgetionary

Fiscal Year - the 12-month period that defines the operating year, and the budget, for Virginia and all Virginia localities. The fiscal year begins July 1 and ends the following June 30.

Revenues - receipts from taxes, fees and other levels of government

Expenditures - spending, whether for operating expenses or for investments in capital facilities, primarily on a cash basis

Assessments - the annual estimate of market value of land and land improvements such as new buildings or additions to reflect current market conditions

Want To Serve Your Community?

If yes, please apply to serve on a County Board, Commission, or Committee. Applications were distributed in your February/March issue of "FYI" and are also available on the County's web site at www.jccEgov.com or by calling 253-6609.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Water Restrictions Begin May 1

Informed & Involved

County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission meetings are just two of the many opportunities to hear and respond to the critical issues within our community.

Regular Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., Board Work Sessions are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m., and Planning Commission meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, also at 7 p. m.

All meetings are held at the James City County Government Complex, 101 Mounts Bay Road, in the Building F Board Room.

The meetings are also broadcast live on County Government Channel JCC TV48, and are reshown based on the following schedule:

- The first Board meeting of the month is reshown the following Thursday at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., and the following Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- Board Work Sessions are reshown the following Thursday at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., and the following Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- The rebroadcast of the second monthly Board meeting directly follows the rebroadcast of Board Work Session.
- Planning Commission Meetings are reshown on the following Wednesday at 10 a.m. and the following Friday at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Board Agendas are posted in several locations - on JCC TV48 and on the County's web site at www.jccEgov.com the Friday before the meeting, and in The Virginia Gazette the first Saturday of each month, under "FYI Citizen Update."

Federal Funding

Except for funding for the schools, the only significant Federal funding the County receives comes in the form of special-purpose grants for community development, public transportation projects, and some public safety programs.

EXPENDITURES

Operating

School Contribution - The bulk of County revenue - 55-percent - goes to our public school system. Funding for the combined Williamsburg/James City County public school system is determined by the County and the City of Williamsburg based mainly on the number of children from each jurisdiction in the schools.

School divisions in Virginia do not have the power of taxation. The School Superintendent develops a "budget of need" which then goes to the School Board for review and approval. The School Board budget request is then sent to the County Board of Supervisors and to City Council for consideration and funding.

Library Contribution - Our regional library system is governed by a Board of Trustees serving both the County and the City. The County and City provide funds on a formula that measures the relative circulation of library materials by patrons in the two localities. The library system also receives money from the State, York County, and outside agencies.

Services - Education is our highest priority, followed by Public Safety - such as police and fire - and Community Services programs that serve the most needy of County residents.

Other important expenditures vary by County departments. Examples include the delivery of the Neighborhood Connections program, Code inspections, Parks and Recreation, the judicial administration of a joint court system, and recruiting quality employees, just to name a few.

Capital Projects - Capital Improvement Program projects - better known as CIP - are those one-time expenses costing \$50,000 or more. Examples include building a new community center, a fire station, a courthouse, setting money aside for school construction or renovations, or an investment in acquiring greenspace or development rights.

The Capital Budget is a 5-year capital plan developed and reviewed by the Planning Commission for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan. The Board of Supervisors appropriates funding the first year, and the remaining four years are for planning purposes.

Look for all the details on the County's proposed FY 2005 and FY 2006 budgets in the Saturday, April 10 edition of The Virginia Gazette. The budget will also be the topic of a series of Board Work Sessions in April and May (see April 10th ad). The meetings, to be held at the County Government Complex in Building F, will also be televised live on JCC TV48.

Pools, Hot Tubs, and Spas

Drowning is a leading cause of death for children under the age of five. By law, swimming pools deeper than 24 inches-above ground or in ground-hot tubs, and spas are required to have permits and inspections. Virginia law also regulates fencing around pools. To help protect your children and others, the County's Office of Code Compliance is promoting a pool safety campaign this spring. If you don't have the required permits and inspections for a pool, hot tub, or spa, contact Code Compliance at 253-6626 or E-Mail at Codecomp@james-city.va.us. Beginning June 1, enforcement actions may be considered for pools, hot tubs, and spas without the required permits and inspections.

2004 Household Chemical Collection Schedule

Collections are held in the James City Service Authority (JCSA) employee parking lot on Tewning Road, located off Ironbound Road approximately 1/4 mile from Eastern State Hospital. Collections are held on Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the following dates: May 8 - July 10 - September 11 - November 13.

For more information, directions, or accepted materials, call the Virginia Peninsulas Public Service Authority (VPPSA) at 259-9850 or visit www.vppsa.org.

Tornado Preparedness

Tornadoes can strike at any time. However, in Virginia most tornadoes occur between April and October. Every family should have a Safety Plan and a Survival Kit for responding to any emergency. If you or your neighborhood needs help in developing a plan, call Neighborhood Connections at 229-7630. For more information on tornado preparedness, call 564-2140 or visit the Virginia Department of Emergency Management web site at www.vaemergency.com.

Safety Camp

Coming this summer, safety training from a kid's point of view. The ABC's of Safety Camp will be held in June, so check for details on the County's website at www.jccEgov.com, on JCC TV48, and in your local newspapers. Camp includes interactive education in animal safety, Ident-a-Kid, water safety, and more. The camp is a joint effort of the Fire, Police, and Park & Recreation departments.



Know Your Day to Water

From May 1 to September 30 of every year, JCSA customers are under outdoor water regulations to help the County manage water demand during the hot summer months.

Under the Regulations:

- JCSA customers may use water outdoors for any purpose, at any time, on any day, as long as it is with a container or with a hose with an automatic shutoff nozzle. The hose must be attended at all times.
- Any other method of outdoor water use, such as with irrigation systems, sprinklers, or hoses without automatic shutoff nozzles, must follow the **Outdoor Water Use Schedule**, which is based on street address.

Under the schedule, no outdoor water use is permitted between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. or at any time on Mondays.

Outdoor Water Use Schedule

Please Remember: Outdoor water use allowed between midnight and 9 a.m. and between 5 p.m. and midnight.

	ODD Address #	EVEN Address #
MONDAY	recovery day	
TUESDAY		✓
WEDNESDAY	✓	
THURSDAY		✓
FRIDAY	✓	
SATURDAY		✓
SUNDAY	✓	

Exemptions:

- New turf (newly installed lawn) can be watered for 60 consecutive days from installation. Exemption requests must be submitted to the JCSA in writing or online at www.jccEgov.com.
- Licensed vehicle washing and pressure washing businesses.
- Nursery stock and plant material can be watered on property where it is grown, produced or sold.

Under Ordinance No. 116A-34, the regulations apply only to JCSA customers. Violation is a Class I Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$2,500. Citizens with private wells and customers of Newport News Water Works are encouraged to follow the odd/even schedule to help avoid excess peak water demand. For complete Ordinance details go to www.jccEgov.com.



**OUTDOOR WATER
INFO LINE
259-4152**

Let's be responsible, Let's be Water Smart.

**A public/private initiative to promote
responsible water usage in James City County**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Berkeley District

Jay T. Harrison, Sr. 592-7395
E-Mail: harrison@james-city.va.us

Jamestown District

John McGlennon 220-0568
E-Mail: jjmcgl@james-city.va.us

Powhatan District

Michael J. Brown 565-4414
fax 565-3554
E-Mail: mbrown@james-city.va.us

Roberts District

Bruce C. Goodson 229-0190
E-Mail: bgoodson@james-city.va.us

Stonehouse District

M. Anderson Bradshaw 566-1282
E-Mail: andybrad@james-city.va.us

County Administrator

Sandy Wanner 253-6605 (work)
..... 565-4196 (home)
E-Mail: sbwanner@james-city.va.us

James City County

General Information, (757) 253-6600
Emergency Hotline Number, (757) 875-2424
Web Site: www.jccEgov.com

CERT Classes Begin

Do you want to be better prepared to protect your family and help your neighbors in the event of a disaster? Would you like to know more about simple first aid, fire safety, terrorism awareness, or how County resources are deployed in disaster situations? Sign up for the 20-hour CERT training course. CERT - Community Emergency Response Team - classes have been scheduled in May:

- Monday, May 10 - Emergency Preparedness - 6:30 - 10 p.m.
- Thursday, May 13 - Fire Safety - 9 a.m. - 12 noon
- Monday, May 17 - Medical Operations - 6:30 - 10 p.m.
- Thursday, May 20 - Medical Operations - 6:30 - 10 p.m.
- Saturday, May 22 - Search & Rescue (SAR) - 9 a.m. - 12 noon
- Monday, May 24 - CISM (Disaster Psychology) and CERT Organization - 6:30 - 10 p.m.
- Thursday, May 27 - Terrorism - 6:30 - 10 p.m.
- Saturday, May 29 - Disaster Simulation/Course Review - 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

CERT classes will be held at the James City County Fire Training Center, located on the grounds of Eastern State Hospital in Building #29. For directions or more information, log onto www.jccEgov.com/resources/fire/certprogram/dept_fire_cert_april2004.html or call 253-0574.



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