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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



The 800MHz Radio system Helping to Protect and Improve Safety

The James City County Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of a regional 800MHz trunked radio system during its August 2003 meeting. Why is this new radio system a critical purchase? How will it change the way the County conducts business? And why is the system important to citizens?

Why purchase a new radio system?

The current radio system used by fire, police, and other critical County departments, requires continual maintenance and frequent repair because of its age. Radio channel congestion often interferes with the users ability to hear clearly. The County Board approved the contract with neighboring York County to buy a regional, state-of-the-art radio system that will allow all agencies to communicate by wireless, hand-held radios more effectively and clearly.

What changes will occur?

James City and York counties will share the 20-channel system to connect police, fire, water/sewer departments, schools, transit, 911 centers, and other agencies. The digital/analog compatible system will permit each locality to have radio communications capability with the Richmond and Hampton Roads areas plus Federal, State, and military agencies. The trunked capability means each County department will have ready access to any available channel, eliminating channel congestion.

Why is the new system important to citizens?

The new system offers improved safety and efficiency. The 800 MHz system improves radio communications and expands the coverage area between both James City and York. It expands channel capacity, allowing County officials to talk to each other or in "talk groups" without interference. Each County radio system can operate independently, but if needed, can also operate as a joint tool in a regional emergency or event.

When will the new radio system be online?

The new system should be available by spring 2005. Work includes system design, acquisition of land for tower sites, equipment installation, and final acceptance testing.



Want to know more? For more information, watch New 800 MHz Radio System on JCC TV48 October 9 - 14 at 1, 5, 9 a.m./p.m. You can also checkout the County website www.jccEgov.com or call the County Fire Chief Richard Miller at 565-7603.

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Help During Emergencies

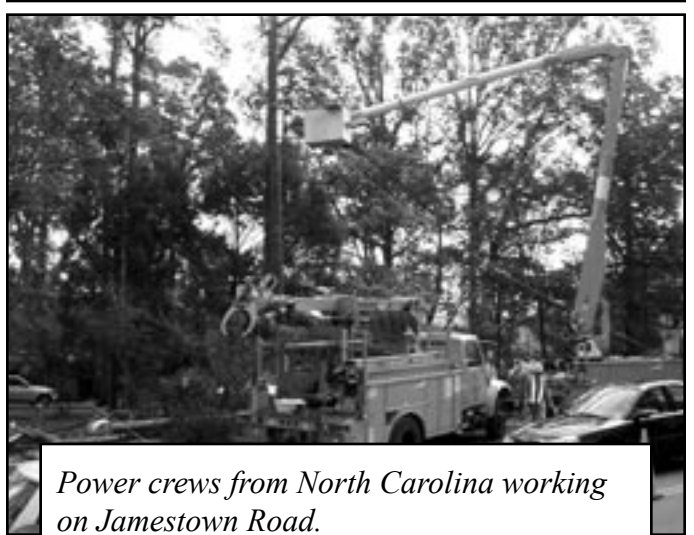
Take a more active role in preparing yourself and your neighborhood for an emergency. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training programs teach citizens and communities the basic skills needed immediately following a major disaster, when emergency services personnel may not be available and when residents may have to rely on each other for life-saving and life-sustaining needs. The CERT program is being offered October 21 - November 15, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., at the Fire Training Center on the Eastern State Hospital Complex. For details, call the Fire Education Office at 253-0574 or visit www.jccEgov.com.

Weathering the Storm

Hurricane Isabel did substantial damage in James City County on September 18. In the next edition of "FYI," we'll provide you with details of the devastation and the recovery. A reminder, if severe weather threatens our area, listen to your local radio and television stations for the latest information. Two radio stations – WXGM 99.1 and Eagle 97.3 and television news station WWBT Channel 12 (Richmond) provided consistent events during the Hurricane Isabel recovery. Also watch JCC TV48 and call the County's Emergency Hotline Number at 875-2424 for the latest information.



Examples of damage in County neighborhoods.



Power crews from North Carolina working on Jamestown Road.

Ripken World Series is a Home Run

Competitive sports such as the Cal Ripken World Series, which was hosted by the County in August at the District Sports Complex, often leaves with winners and losers...but this time says Wayne Rickman, President of the Host Committee, "it was a win-win for everyone involved." It's estimated 12,000 total spectators attended the events, despite seven inches of rain that fell throughout the event.

The teamwork involved in the series didn't just stop on the field. Director of Parks and Recreation Ned Cheely stated, "hundreds of volunteers donated thousands of hours over the course of a year to plan this event. Our community, and in particular the 14 local ten year-olds that played, will have a lifetime memory that only a handful will ever experience."

What made the County a unique draw for the tournament also helped enhance economic impact. In other years, eliminated teams traveled back home after their final game. Because of the rich history of the area, teams and their support groups stayed the entire week, taking in everything the County has to offer.

Comprehensive Plan Update

The Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted the 2003 Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Map during its August 12 meeting. Copies are available online at www.jccEgov.com and final printed copies will be available in mid-October.

The County will be recognized for its efforts during the Comprehensive Plan update by receiving the 2003 President's Award for Entrepreneurial Government from the Virginia Municipal League (VML). The Award, presented in October at the annual VML conference in Roanoke, will recognize staff's innovative approach to updating the Plan.

Work included a citizen-based Community Participation Team, a phone survey of 1,200 citizens, Listening Stations

that collected citizen responses, Community Conversation meetings, and twenty-two applications for land use designation change. The VML is open to all of the State's 40 cities, 155 towns, and 14 counties.



SHORT TAKES

▼ The Legal Aspects of Homeowners Association seminar series has been postponed to winter 2004. Call 229-7630 for more information.

▼ The James City/Williamsburg Community Center Pool will be closed for the month of December to replace the lights.

▼ Personal Property and Real Estate Taxes are due December 5. Payments may be made at the Treasurer's Office, 101 - B Mounts Bay Road, Satellite Services, 3127 Forge Road, and all local Citizens & Farmers Bank branches. With the County's *Easy Pay* program, your checking or savings account can be debited automatically for your Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes. Call the Treasurer's office for more information, 253-6705.

Women and Minority - Owned Business Procurement Conference

James City County and its Industrial Development Authority will host a business conference on Wednesday, October 29, at the Radisson Fort Magruder Hotel.

Speakers will discuss procurement opportunities and practices at the local, State, and Federal levels, with focus on women and minority-owned business participation in the Williamsburg area.

Attendance is free, but space is limited, and registration is required. To get information about the conference or to register, go to www.jccecondev.com or call 253-6607 for a brochure.

Celebration of Business

Avid Medical, which packages and markets surgical kits, has received this year's Captain John Smith Award for outstanding business achievement. James City County and its Industrial Development Authority (IDA) present the award annually during its Celebration of Business - an event saluting the County's major industrial, technical, and business service companies.



Pictured left to right: BOS member Michael Brown, Avid Chairman/ CEO Michael Sahad, President/ CEO Rick Setian, and BOS member John McGlennon.

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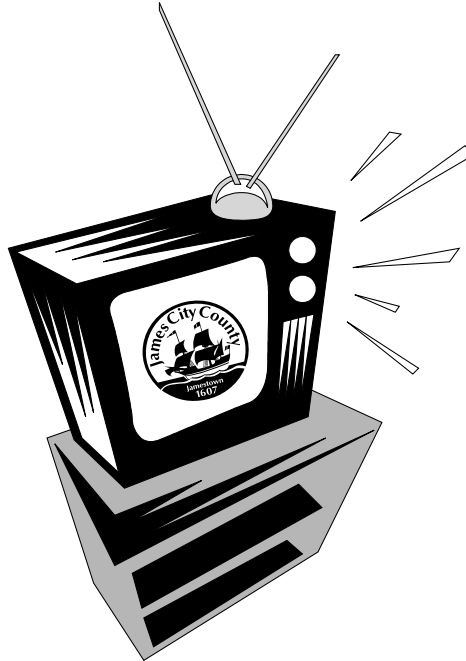
James City County

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

On JCC TV 48 in October:

“Fall Lawns of Distinction” hosted by County Water Quality Program Educator Bob Winters, answers all your questions on turf growth in the James City County/ Williamsburg community. Best Management Practices starting with a soil test, liming, and timely fertilization are featured, plus the importance of proper watering, good

mowing, and seed selection are also discussed. The program airs October 9 - October 14, at 2, 6, 10 a.m. and p.m., on JCC TV48.



“Disaster Preparedness, You and Your Community” will air on JCC TV48 October 16 to October 21 at 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. This program details the importance of individual preparedness for hurricanes, local disasters, or worldwide tragic events.

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October - November 2003

James City County
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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.jccEgov.com.

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