

2005 JAMES CITY COUNTY PROGRESS REPORT

A special report for James City County Citizens.



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



WHERE WE'RE FROM...

On May 13, 1607, 144 English explorers established James Towne, the first permanent English settlement of America.

WHERE WE'RE GOING...

We're among the fastest growing counties in Virginia. While working to preserve our natural beauty and historical significance, James City County is managing growth and balancing development to meet the needs of all residents and future generations.



CELEBRATE OUR JOURNEY...

James City County is preparing for the commemoration of America's 400th anniversary. Find out more at www.jamestown2007.org.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As we think back over the past 12 months, we see a vibrant James City County progressing in many areas important to our citizenry. We also see a community whose citizens regularly participate to maintain and even enhance the ambiance of this special place we call our home.

Your Board of Supervisors continues to invest in our future. We recently brought on-line our new Five Forks Water Treatment Facility. This modern, state-of-the-art water desalinization plant is capable of providing up to 5 million gallons of clean water every day. In education, we saw the \$39.82 million bond referendum for the third high school pass overwhelmingly. This paves the way for the co-located campuses of the new high school and the new Historic Triangle Campus of Thomas Nelson Community College off Centerville Road. The synergistic possibilities of this for our students are bright and substantial.

For better public safety, we partnered with York County to invest in a new, more capable 800 MHz radio system. This system provides countywide radio coverage for all our local government radio users and greatly improves our capability to communicate regionally and statewide during times of emergency.

The opening of the new Fire Station 2 on Pocahontas Trail also marked an investment in making our community safer.

The County strengthened its reputation for managing its finances wisely. Moody's raised our bond rating, placing us at the top of peer counties in the Commonwealth. In addition, we reduced the real estate tax rate by 3.5 cents to 82.5 cents per \$100 assessed value this past year, reflecting an ongoing commitment to constrain budget growth.

Your Board is ever cognizant of its responsibility for the needs of our growing, diverse community. We are committed to preserving that which enhances the quality of life for all of us. James City County is a wonderful place in which to live, and your Board is ever mindful of all our continuing community efforts to keep it that way.



2005 Board of Supervisors: (front left to right) Andy Bradshaw, John McGlennon and Vice Chairman Jay Harrison. Bruce Goodson (left, standing) and Chairman Michael Brown.

JAMES CITY COUNTY'S 2005 DIRECTIONS

1. *Manage finances wisely and encourage a balanced economy.*
2. *Improve the lives of citizens and foster a sense of community.*
3. *Plan responsibly for the needs of a growing, diverse community.*
4. *Steward the natural environment and historic heritage.*
5. *Provide outstanding service.*

1. MANAGE FINANCES WISELY AND ENCOURAGE A BALANCED ECONOMY.

- County voters overwhelmingly approved a \$39.82 million bond referendum for a new high school this past fall. Bonds were sold in May based on new ratings that helped lower interest costs. Fitch rated the County an AA+, Moody's upgraded the County to an AA2 rating while Standard and Poor's reaffirmed an AA bond rating. The rating reports cited the County's growing and diversifying economic strength and fiscal stewardship provided by the Board of Supervisors.
- Board of Supervisors implemented, at the request of the Williamsburg Area Chamber of Commerce and Williamsburg Hotel & Motel Association, a special \$2 per night supplemental room tax to fund marketing efforts targeted at increasing tourism.
- Parks and Recreation recovered approximately 56 percent of its costs through user fees, thereby reducing the need for tax support.
- The new construction and management of computer network and telecommunications infrastructure resulted in a savings of \$1.1 million.

An improving economy continued to support business expansions and relocations, representing a combined taxable capital investment of \$7 million, which will equate to approximately \$58,000 in annual local property tax revenues. They included:

In James River Commerce Center:

- Jeanne Reed's acquired property to construct its own facility. The wholesale distributor's anticipated capital investment is approximately \$700,000.
- Coresix Precision Glass, a manufacturer of optical quality glass components for equipment, constructed a \$2.5 million facility. It employs 50 workers.

In Stonehouse Commerce Park:

- Lumber Liquidators moved its headquarters, manufacturing, distribution and call center operations here and is expected to bring up to 300 jobs. The hardwood flooring company acquired an \$8 million building where it will house \$4.5 million in equipment.
- Wythe Will Distributing moved into its new \$4.5 million facility, where it expects to employ an additional 55 workers over the next few years. The company is a national distributor of candy and specialty foods.
- Nicewood Enterprises, Inc. relocated into a \$1.94 million facility. The designer/fabricator of custom wood fixtures and casework for the retail industry nationwide expects to create an additional 23 jobs.
- Citizens & Farmers Bank plans to move its operations center here where it will invest \$3.75 million in acquisition and renovation and expects to employ up to 150 workers over the next five years.
- Energy Services Group International (ESGI) and LaTienda partnered in purchasing a building for \$2.55 million. LaTienda imports and distributes various products from Spain. ESGI provides contract labor for nuclear facilities, and also has engineering, construction, fabrication, IT and insurance divisions.



Warhill site

2. IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CITIZENS AND FOSTER A SENSE OF COMMUNITY.

- Ground was broken on the Warhill site at Richmond and Centerville roads for the construction of the new high school, the Historic Triangle Campus of Thomas Nelson Community College and the JCC Community Sports Stadium Facility.

- The new Fire Station 2 in Grove provides more space for firefighting and rescue crews as well as space for police officers assigned to the area.



Fire Station #2

- More than 100 County employees joined with others during the United Way Day of Caring held this past September, which resulted in the painting of one home, replacing timbers at Mid County Park's Kidsburg, and replacing the floors in a trailer for an elderly citizen.

- A new playground was built at Little Creek Reservoir Park, five youth baseball fields constructed at Warhill Sports Complex, and a new small boat/canoe launch

opened at Powhatan Creek.

- The 2005 Citizen Leadership Academy, a training opportunity open to all residents, taught 14 residents how to strengthen community relationships and work together as a team.



James City County 101

- More than 65 citizens toured the County and learned more about County services during a training program titled "James City County 101" in April.

- The County extended fiber optic services to Williamsburg-James City County middle schools, making it possible for students to participate in SOL testing without affecting administrative computing, Internet access or any other electronic learning activities.

- A Kids in Cars program on JCC TV48 explained the dangers of leaving children alone in cars.
- Child Protective Services worked with community partners, including Virginia Cooperative Extension, Williamsburg-James City County (WJCC) Schools, Community Action Agency and others, to sponsor a Candlelight Ceremony in April to bring attention to Child Abuse Prevention Month.



- Social Services and the Network for Latino People co-sponsored the first information night for Spanish speaking residents at the Human Services Center where representatives from 10 community organizations were available to share information.
- All fourth graders at four elementary schools learned about science through monthly lessons from 4-H.
- A failed stormwater pond was reconstructed in the Yarmouth Creek Watershed. Drainage improvements in Grove reduced the flooding potential for two dwellings.
- The Fire Department, in coordination with Citizens Corps, offered Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to prepare citizens to help themselves and their neighborhoods during emergencies.
- The Fire Department partnered with James City-Bruton Volunteer Fire Department and local churches to distribute 20 smoke and 16 carbon monoxide detectors to Toano residents.
- The Office of Community Services, Williamsburg Area Transport administration, Purchase of Development Rights, Youth Services, Neighborhood Connections, Housing and Community Development, Recreation Services and Family Mediation moved into three buildings acquired in Ironbound Village to ease overcrowding at the Human Services Center and eliminate need for some leased space.
- The County's Youth Advisory Council helped develop a brochure to encourage more youth to ride buses, helped cancer patients and volunteered for other activities. Youth Services created a brochure on the many programs, facilities and scholarship opportunities for youth in the community.
- The at-risk youth program STRIVE partnered with a sorority at the College of William and Mary to offer mentoring for 12 high school girls. An adventuring program included trips to ropes and initiatives courses, overnight camping and the opportunity to learn outdoor skills such as pitching a tent.
- The Strengthening Families Program offered a program that focused on communication, peer pressure and setting limits.



- Parks and Recreation began construction on a new multi-use trail at Mid County Park and a new restroom facility and pedestrian bridge at Little Creek Reservoir Park.
- The Police Department's RAD Kids Program provided children ages 5 through 12 with defensive skills to help prevent abduction and molestation.
- Police and Fire departments started part-time marine patrols on waterways.

- Communications produced more than 300 hours of live meeting coverage, including broadcasts of Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission meetings. Staff also produced 185 video programs on a variety of important government and community issues.

3. PLAN RESPONSIBLY FOR THE NEEDS OF A GROWING, DIVERSE COMMUNITY.

- James City Service Authority (JCSA) opened a \$20 million Five Forks Water Treatment Facility capable of producing 5 million gallons of water daily. A leading-edge fiber-optic based telecommunications system was installed at the facility to provide ultra high-speed connections.
- Board of Supervisors approved its share of funding for a new school building housing student services, alternative education and purchasing on a site adjacent to Berkeley Middle School.
- Board of Supervisors approved its share of funding for a new elementary school, renovation and expansion of Norge Elementary School and the expansion of Stonehouse Elementary School to accommodate enrollment growth in grades K-5.
- Board of Supervisors authorized a Public-Private Education Facilities & Infrastructure Act (PPEA) proposal to create the infrastructure needed for the new community college campus, new high school and a community sports facility.
- Construction began on the new Emergency Communications Center (ECC) in Toano that will house 911 operations and the new 800 MHz radio system.
- Police officers received training relating to Alzheimer's patients, search management and Project Lifesaver, enabling them to better resolve situations involving patients and to follow up later to determine whether further services are needed.
- County neighborhoods were awarded matching grants for efforts to improve their neighborhoods. Each of the seven neighborhoods received their grant during special presentations at neighborhood meetings.



- The Board of Supervisors adopted Five Forks Primary Principles after meetings were held with citizens about retaining the uniqueness of the Five Forks area at John Tyler Highway and Ironbound Road.

4. STEWARD THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND HISTORIC HERITAGE.

- Archaeological work at Freedom Park provided evidence of one of the first free black settlements in Virginia. Evidence of colonial developments, revolutionary and civil war encampments and Native American settlements from several thousand years ago have also been found.
- The Commonwealth of Virginia announced its Purchase of Development Rights program, which was modeled after the County's, on the site of Mainland Farm. Mainland is the oldest active farm in the United States and was acquired by the County under the Greenspace Program.
- The County's Local Site Planning Roundtable reviewed development codes to identify regulatory barriers to environmentally sensitive residential and commercial development. The 75-member roundtable representing local government, civic, non-profit, environmental, homebuilding, development and other community professionals produced "Recommended Model Development Principles for James City County, Virginia."
- Design completed for stream restoration project that will improve water quality and stop erosion in the Powhatan Creek watershed.
- The first phase of the Virginia Capital Trail was fully funded. The completed trail will be a 54-mile recreational path connecting Richmond to Williamsburg and the County.
- Several landscaping projects were completed along the Chickahominy Riverfront Park road frontage, Jamestown Road, the Route 199 and Monticello Avenue interchange, Route 5 and Route 60. A beautification program for Jamestown Road has been implemented as well as several right-of-way beautification projects.
- PRIDE (Protecting Resources in Delicate Environments) doubled the amount of its mini-grants to \$500 for neighborhoods, stormwater facility owners and community groups to encourage watershed improvements.

The neighborhoods included Villages of Westminster, Season's Trace, Rolling Woods, Settler's Mill and Briarwood Condos.



- JCSA's Cap It well abandonment program was awarded a grant to help educate residents about the dangers of open wells and provided funding to properly abandon wells at no cost to the well owner.
- Virginia Cooperative Extension, Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District and the James River Association planted over 4,000 trees in neighborhood conservation areas and distributed 5,000 trees during the 2nd Community Reforestation Project.
- More than 60 citizens and others took a watershed tour sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension, Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District, the Williamsburg Land Conservancy and PRIDE showcasing the protection of water resources.

5. PROVIDE OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE.

- County partnered with Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles to open DMV Select at Satellite Services, in the County office building in Toano.
- Parks and Recreation held a Summer Camp expo to allow parents the opportunity to learn about camps offered by the County and its partnering organizations. Summer staff were on hand to assist more than 300 people who attended.





Master Gardener
volunteer

- Parks and Recreation redesigned its Activity Brochure, which is published three times a year, for easier readability.
- The James City Clean County Commission's 24th annual Spring Cleanup involved 253 volunteers who collected 72,360 pounds of litter and debris.
- More than 5,000 citizens requested the citizen newsletter "FYI" and nearly 7,000 subscribers have signed up at www.jccEgov.com for e-mail about neighborhood news, parks and recreation, JCC TV48 programming and more.
- Nearly 263,000 visitors surfed the County's web site, www.jccEgov.com,

more than twice the number of visitors in previous years. The most popularly visited links are Parks and Recreation, job information and bids/requests for proposals.

- Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener volunteers diagnosed and answered an average of 100 calls per month on plant disease, insects and other problems. The master gardeners volunteered 14,000 hours on educational programs, clinics and homeowner visits.

AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS

- The County received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada for the 18th consecutive year.
- The County's Succession Management Planning initiative to develop future managers was recognized by the Innovation Group and featured in this past March's IGNewsletter as a model for other local governments.
- The County's leadership development program was featured in the February issue of Virginia Town and City magazine for its innovative and cost-effective approach. The program is a partnership with the City of Williamsburg and WJCC Schools.
- Outstanding achievement awards signed by Gov. Mark Warner were presented to the County for its CERT program.
- The 2004 Progress Report won the National Association of County Information Officers' meritorious award for annual reports.
- The National Association of Counties awarded 2005 Achievement Awards to two at-risk youth programs -- Grove Community Partnership and STRIVE -- and PRIDE, which

educates citizens about watershed protection.

- The County's Working Towards Wellness program received Hampton Roads Health Coalition's 2005 Wellness in the Workplace Award for its efforts to help employees achieve a healthy lifestyle.
- JCSA received Virginia's Excellence in Waterworks Operations Award from the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water for the protection of community drinking water.
- JCSA's Ironbound Road Water Storage Facility received an Award of Merit for Best Institutional Public Building from the Hampton Roads Association for Commercial Real Estate's 2004 Excellence in Development Design Awards Program.
- Parks and Recreation was recognized by the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials for the at-risk youth program Beyond the Bell and for the Powhatan Creek Park and Blueway.
- Parks and Recreation was named a finalist in the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration 2005 Gold Medal Awards.



Five Forks Water
Treatment Facility

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- The Peninsula Economic Development Alliance, of which the County was a member, merged with the Southside-based Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance for marketing the region worldwide.
- The Fire Department implemented installation of the new regional 800 MHz radio system through a cooperative partnership with York County. This included construction of five radio transmitter sites, more than 350 new radio units, and new radio control consoles at the County's 911 center.
- The County and Williamsburg partnered with radio station WMBG AM 740 to provide information during emergencies, particularly during extended power outages.



Hampton Roads
Economic Development
Alliance



Police
Department

- The County, City of Williamsburg and York County agreed on the expansion of the Heritage Humane Society on Waller Mill Road. The County's Animal Control office will be based in the new facility.
- The Board of Supervisors funded its share of a new regional Wayfinding project to develop consistent and uniform signage and directions in the Historic Triangle.
- The County entered its 10th year partnering with seven other Hampton Roads jurisdictions to bring low-cost Internet access to all County employees.
- The Williamsburg Regional Library Bookmobile received an award from the Virginia Public Library Directors' Association for its quarterly literacy programs bringing together preschoolers and non-ambulatory residents of elder care homes. An award also was given to the regional library for "Looking To Learn," a visual literacy program.
- The JCSA continued groundwater studies with other Hampton Roads communities and utilities.
- The JCSA partnered with Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners and Lowe's to present "how to" workshops on lawn care, water-wise gardening and other topics.
- The PRIDE program partnered with the Leadership Historic Triangle to restore a small stream at the Jamestown 4-H Educational Center.
- The County entered into a joint partnership with the City of Williamsburg to develop the area's first off-leash Dog Park, which recently opened.
- A total of 34 County students are able use their own computers at home to do schoolwork through Computers for Kids, a partnership between the County, WJCC Schools and Computer Recycling of Virginia, Inc.
- More than 700 youth participated in the 4th Grade Learn to Swim Program offered in partnership with the WJCC Schools.
- Williamsburg Area Transport (WAT) operations moved into a new regional garage through a lease agreement with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (CWF) that provides centralized vehicle storage, fueling and maintenance.
- WAT received nine compressed natural gas buses on behalf of CWF. The buses provide fixed-route transportation in support of Jamestown 2007.



Williamsburg Area Transport



Waller Mill off-leash dog park

- WAT and Hampton Roads Transit started seasonal express commuter bus service between Williamsburg and Virginia Beach for residents and tourists.

GRANTS

Federal, state and local grants helped offset costs for police training, homeland security, youth programs, housing assistance, environmental efforts and more. Highlights include:

- Proffers totaling \$1.5 million to acquire sites for new schools.
- Fire purchased a new ambulance at Fire Station 5.
- Parks and Recreation received grants to offer the Beyond the Bell program and allow youth campers to learn about the Chesapeake Bay watershed on field trips.
- Police awarded grants for DUI enforcement, homeland security and terrorism prevention, bicycle and highway safety and narcotics task force.
- Three flood-prone homes elevated in Chickahominy Haven using federal grant.
- Emergency Management participated in a national terrorism preparedness exercise and improved emergency plans. A state grant helped operate the Citizens Corps Council.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded \$5.1 million grant to build supportive housing for the elderly in Ironbound Square. The 67 apartment units will be constructed at Ironbound and Carriage Roads. A Community Development Block Grant of \$300,000 will pay for storm drainage and storm water management improvements in the redevelopment area. The County also received \$200,000 under the Virginia Rural Housing Rehabilitation Demonstration Program to rehabilitate or demolish and replace seven homes.
- Housing and Community Development received a reservation of \$4.3 million from the Virginia Housing Development Authority for special reduced interest rate mortgages that will enable 36 low- and moderate-income families to become first-time homebuyers.

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Postal Patron

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

James City County's Communications office publishes the Progress Report, an annual update of the County's progress toward achieving its strategic directions. The citizen newsletter "FYI" - published six times yearly - also provides citizens with timely information. It is available by calling 253-6864 or signing up for an electronic copy at www.jccEgov.com. The County's Government Access Channel JCC TV48 broadcasts Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission meetings. Tune to JCC TV48 to see video programs on a variety of community and government issues.

