

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



New Board Chairman



Bruce Goodson

Roberts Supervisor Bruce Goodson is the new chairman of James City County's Board of Supervisors. Jamestown Supervisor John McGlennon is the new vice chairman. Both were elected Jan. 3 during the Board's organizational meeting. Their terms of service are one year.

"I see the most important issue we will tackle this year is amending the Zoning Ordinance covering rural lands, and how we protect the character of the upper County without infringing on the private property rights of our County landowners," Goodson said. He said he will also encourage review of other important issues, such as the cash proffer policy, affordable housing and the creation of a stormwater utility.

This is Goodson's second term leading the Board; he also served as chairman in 2004. He currently represents the County on the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance, the High Growth Coalition, the School Liaison Subcommittee and the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He is also chairman of the County's 2007 Community Program Committee.

Goodson is President of the Diamond/Goodson Equipment Corporation, a regional industrial equipment dealer with locations in Norfolk and Richmond.

Goodson, who attended Walsingham Academy, received a bachelor's degree from Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk. He has two children who attend County public schools; the oldest daughter is a student at the University of Richmond.

Icenhour joins Board

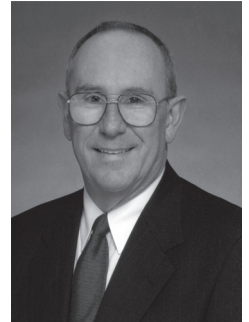
Supervisor Jim Icenhour is the newest member of the Board of Supervisors. He was elected this past fall from the Powhatan District.

Icenhour retired as an Air Force officer in 1987. During his career as a fighter pilot, he flew 195 combat missions in the Vietnam War and twice won the Distinguished Flying Cross. He then became a pilot for Pan American World Airways and later became a captain for Delta Air Lines for 14 years until his retirement in 2005.

Icenhour serves on the Ford's Colony Strategic Planning Committee and was a director of the Williamsburg Land Conservancy. In July 2005, he was appointed by Gov. Mark Warner to the State Water Commission.

Icenhour has a master's degree from the University of Utah and is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Icenhour and his wife Linda have two grown daughters, who both attended local area high schools and Virginia colleges.



Jim Icenhour

Watch JCC TV48 for the latest on legislative issues

What are the issues facing the 2006 General Assembly? Look for weekly updates from the Richmond Capitol on JCC TV48, the County's local outlet for government programming.

For specific show times, check the JCC TV48 message board which appears between scheduled programming or visit www.jccEgov.com and follow the TV48 link.

Board calendar

County residents are welcome to attend meetings to see their elected representatives in action. Meetings are also broadcast live on Government Channel JCC TV48.

For agenda details and meeting rebroadcast times on JCC TV48, see www.jccEgov.com.

Here are the Board's upcoming meetings:

- **Feb. 14, 7 p.m.**, regular meeting
- **Feb. 28, 4 p.m.**, work session and **7 p.m.**, regular meeting
- **March 14, 7 p.m.**, regular meeting
- **March 28, 4 p.m.**, work session and **7 p.m.**, regular meeting

Let's be Water Smart

Learn how to maintain high quality landscaping while taking a "smart" approach to water use.

Visit Let's be Water Smart at www.bewatersmart.org for upcoming spring workshops and events and to join our mailing list.

Turf Love 'U'

Sign up for Turf Love "U" to be held March 4 at the James City/Williamsburg Community Center, 5301 Longhill Road.

Topics include soil amendments, seeds and natural pest control, and yearlong planning for superior turf.

The class will be held from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information and to register, contact Virginia Cooperative Extension at 564-2170 or www.jccwmg.org.

Budget public hearing

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the proposed biennial budget on April 25 at 7 p.m. at the County Government Complex, 101 Mounts Bay Road, Building F. Citizens are invited to make comments on the budget plan for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 and recommended tax rates, which will be presented at the meeting.

The Board will hold work sessions on the budget proposal April 27, and May 1 and 3. The Board is scheduled to adopt the budget on May 9.

County adopts car tax relief amendment

In response to car tax relief changes that cap reimbursements to localities by the General Assembly that started in January, the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance amendment this past fall that would:

- Provide continued tax relief to County residents on personally owned and operated motor vehicles.
- Continue to exempt personal vehicles valued at \$1,000 or less.
- Authorize the County Treasurer to bill delinquent taxpayers for tax year 2005 and prior tax years for 100 percent of taxes due plus penalties and interest.

In 1998, the General Assembly enacted car tax relief (Personal Property Tax Relief Act), which provides relief from personal property taxes on the first \$20,000 value on personal vehicles. When state revenue projections were not met, the 2004 General Assembly capped the state's reimbursement to localities at \$950 million. As a result, the amount of the state reimbursement allotted to any individual vehicle, which reached 70 percent in 2005, will be reduced in subsequent years.

Real estate tax relief expanded

The Board of Supervisors has doubled the amount of net assets that certain homeowners may have to qualify for real estate tax relief. The Board also increased the household income limit to \$35,000.

The County provides real estate tax relief to homeowners who are 65 or older and those who are permanently and totally disabled if they meet certain income and financial worth qualifications. The changes were made to help homeowners with limited financial resources deal with the rapidly rising home property values in the County.

Homeowners may now have a net combined financial worth of \$200,000, not including the home and up to one acre of land, and \$35,000 in household income from all sources. The amount of the real estate tax exemption was raised to the first \$100,000 of value on the homeowner's personal residence. The previous limits were \$30,000 in household income, \$100,000 in total assets and an exemption equal to the first \$80,000 value on the home.

The Board also extended the filing deadlines for this exemption to June 1, with provisions for first-time filers and those with hardships to file by June 30. The real estate tax relief changes became effective Jan. 1, for applications received for real estate tax year 2007. The changes do not affect real estate tax bills that are due June 5. For more information, contact Commissioner of Revenue Richard Bradshaw at 253-6695 or Treasurer Ann Davis, 253-6705.



Little Creek Reservoir Park now has a new picnic shelter and rest rooms, a bridge connecting two peninsulas, and an expanded walkway for accessibility. The construction was completed this past fall.

Training opportunities

Neighborhood Connections offers opportunities throughout the year to learn more about neighborhood and homeowners' association issues and to talk to people from other neighborhoods. Upcoming training includes:

■ *Transition from Developer Control*

Feb. 22, 7 to 9 p.m.

William E. Wood Real Estate Building, 5208 Monticello Ave.

Learn about the transition process when the developer of your neighborhood transfers control of the association to members. The program will describe and explain the process, identify areas of concern for the association, review the legal framework for transition and provide the participants with information to develop a transition plan. Registration deadline: Feb. 16. For more details and to register, call 259-5422.

■ *Essentials of Community Association Volunteer Leadership*

March 10, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ford's Colony Swim and Tennis Club, 302 St. Andrews

This course will provide information about the creation, legal foundation, organization and financial structure of community associations. The returning feature this year is a working lunch, "Questions and Answers with Legal Counsel." Fee: \$35. Registration deadline: March 10. For more details and to register, call 259-5422.

Captain John Smith James River Trail

Gov. Mark R. Warner recently announced the Captain John Smith James River Trail, a newly developed boating and driving trail along the James River that chronicles Smith's explorations of the waterway between 1607 and 1609. The trail was created as part of statewide preparations for the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown.

Visitors can access historical details about all of the sites, download maps and plan excursions online at www.JohnSmithTrail.org.



Chairman's Awards

Former Board Chairman Michael J. Brown presented his 2005 Chairman's Award to John Carnifax for his leadership in developing award-winning recreational activities for residents.

Brown also presented awards to the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and Tax-Aide, which help low income and elderly residents prepare their individual tax returns.

Carnifax is currently serving as Acting Parks & Recreation Director as part of the succession management program until April 15. He was named parks superintendent in 1997.

The Chairman's Awards are presented annually in recognition of public service.

Trailblazin'

Look for the Trailblazin' logo to find outdoor adventure opportunities. The Trailblazin' signage is a joint effort by James City County, York County and Williamsburg to promote ecotourism. The brochure detailing outdoor recreation venues is available at the Chamber/CVB, Williamsburg Hotel Motel Association, and area attractions, community centers and parks.



Health Care Award

James City County was honored, along with Williamsburg and York County Social Services, with the annual "Health Care Heroes Award," presented by the Williamsburg Community Health Care Foundation. Social Services Director Diana Hutchens accepted the award.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Web Site: www.jccEgov.com

Jamestown property preservation

The Board of Supervisors has allocated \$2.9 million for the purchase of the 198-acre Jamestown Campsites and Basin properties on the James River and Powhatan Creek in Jamestown.

The nonprofit Trust for Public Land (TPL) has a contract to purchase the properties and has been working with the County and other partners to secure funds for the \$12.5 million purchase. The County funds were used to make a deposit on the property. The land is a high priority for protection because of its prominent location, important historic resources and irreplaceable recreation opportunities.

For more information, contact John Horne, JCC Development Management, at 253-6674 or visit www.jccEgov.com or www.tpl.org.

Norge Train Depot relocation

The County and James City County Historical Commission celebrated the planned relocation of Norge Train Depot in a special ceremony Dec. 17 held at the depot's current location on Peach Street.

The ceremony marked the culmination of years of hard work to preserve the 1900s depot from demolition by the James City County Historical Commission, the Norge Ruritan Club, and citizen volunteers. The County's last remaining train station will be moved to its new location near the James City County Library on Croaker Road. Watch JCC TV48 for highlights of the Norge Train Depot Relocation Ceremony.

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James City County Communications
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