

James City County 2007 Progress Report

A Special Report for James City County Citizens.



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

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400 Years



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Chairman's Message

It has been a remarkable year of progress, reflection and recognition in James City County. As a community, we can take great pride in the national and international focus on the 400th Anniversary commemoration of the first permanent English settlement in America. We also can be equally proud of the lasting legacy our citizens will leave for future generations.

Visits by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain and President George W. Bush drew attention to James City County. They also posed challenges in preparing for their visits on consecutive weeks, along with the tens of thousands of visitors who enjoyed an exceptional weekend of festivities. Your County employees did an outstanding job, from security and public safety to transportation to media relations and numerous other tasks, in cooperation with the State and Federal commissions, local schools, our neighboring cities and counties, Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and other partners.

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As exciting and gratifying as were the events of May, James City County will remember this past year for lasting memorials to this anniversary. With our greenspace fund, along with funds from the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, the Trust for Public Land and Dominion, James City acquired more than 200 acres of great historic and environmental significance, the Jamestown Campground and Yacht Basin. Thanks to the Vermillion family's willingness to sell this property to the County, we will be able to provide parks and recreation facilities and to protect this beautiful property from intense development.

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Legacy Hall, our new community building in New Town, has already become popular for community gatherings, private receptions, weddings and celebrations. Not all of the new County facilities are tied to the Jamestown commemoration. We continue to prepare for the opening in 2008 of Thomas Nelson Community College's Historic Triangle campus adjacent to Warhill High School. The Warhill property, acquired by the County more than 10 years ago, is also home to the recently completed County Stadium, several new fields and other recreation facilities.

The rapid growth of the County continues to pose challenges, including how to pay for the services and facilities needed to maintain and enhance our quality of life. The Board of Supervisors have worked to find revenue other than residential real estate taxes, and with our school system needing a dramatic increase of new funding to open two schools, we were able to keep the County's operating expenses below the rate of population growth and inflation.

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New business activity in New Town and our other retail, industrial and commercial areas are helping to provide resources to fund and expand the range of products and services available to our citizens and visitors.

James City County is facing the challenges of growth and trying to find the right balance between healthy expansion and protection of our environment and quality of life. We hope that you find in this report the successes we have achieved together.



John McGlennon, Chairman



*2007 Board of Supervisors (left to right):
Andy Bradshaw, Vice Chairman Jim Icenhour,
Chairman John McGlennon, Bruce Goodson
and Jay Harrison*

Photo by Kelly J. Mihalcoe

James City County's 2007 Directions and Outcomes

1 Manage finances wisely & encourage a balanced economy

- The County's Standard & Poor bond rating was upgraded to AA+.
- A \$21.5 million general obligation borrowing will finance improvements to Warhill Sports Park, Freedom Park, Chickahominy Riverfront Park and fund greenspace and purchase of development rights (PDR).
- \$105.6 million in lease revenue financing will go

towards a classroom addition to Stonehouse Elementary School, the new Matoaka Elementary School, the fourth middle school and the ninth elementary school.

- Economic Development co-sponsored the Small Business, Women-owned Business and Minority-owned Business (SWaM) Procurement Seminar to provide opportunities for business development.
- Economic Development sponsored the Sensor Science and Technology Forum to develop a strong community interest in the sensor field for industry, academia and government.



Freedom Park ribbon-cutting



Tanner Daniels (left), Isabelle Lejeune and Beau Lejeune at County Stadium

Business announcements

Nine new businesses were announced with more than \$12 million in capital investment and 80 initial jobs. Three of them are stationed at

the Technology Business Incubator at Ironbound Village. Here are some highlights:

- Volvo Rents opened its new 10,000-square-foot, \$1.3 million heavy equipment sales and rental facility at James River Commerce Center.
- Ritchie-Curbow Construction Company is developing a 70,000-square-foot, \$3.5 million speculative multi-tenant light industrial building at James River Commerce Center. Construction completion is expected by the end of 2007. This will provide some much-needed space to help attract additional industrial activities.
- Fremont Die Consumer Products, Inc., a distributor of professional and college sports team collectibles, will be the anchor tenant in the Ritchie Building at James River Commerce Center. It will occupy 35,000 square feet and bring 20 jobs initially.
- Lawrenceville Brick and Masonry Supply broke ground for its new 26,000-square-foot, \$1.5 million warehouse and distribution center in James River Commerce Center. Its brick and masonry products are made in Lawrenceville, VA.
- Carter Machinery Company, an affiliate of Caterpillar Inc., announced plans for a heavy construction equipment distribution, rental and campus-style repair facility at GreenMount Industrial Park totaling over \$4 million in capital investment. MEB General Contractors will develop the building and lease it back to Carter. Occupancy is scheduled for 2008.



Mark Patterson displays his underwater vehicle at the Sensor Science and Technology Forum

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2 Improve the lives of citizens and foster a sense of community

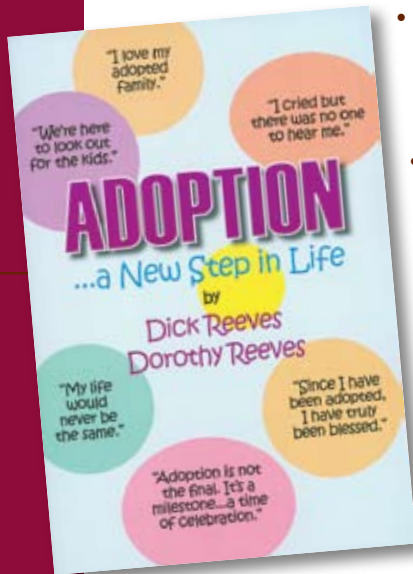


Police Officer Mike Bauman helps a child put on a hat at neighborhood event

- America's 400th Anniversary was held on May 11-13 and the public safety plan was implemented successfully during the Jamestown 2007 events. This plan resulted in the cooperation of more than 28 law enforcement and public safety organizations from Federal, State and local agencies.
- The County removed more than a dozen billboards to beautify entrance corridors by working with sign owners to acquire them.
- The County's participation in the Historic Triangle Public Access Defibrillation Task Force has resulted in the installation of more than 100 AEDs (automated external defibrillators) in the County since 2004.
- The Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) awarded the Police Department re-accredited status for compliance with mandated standards.
- Seatbelt usage increased by 30 percent as a result of the successful Click It or Ticket "zero tolerance" campaign.
- The Police Department worked with other agencies and the faith community to educate citizens about the potential dangers of gang activity in our area.

• Landscaping projects were completed for beautification and enhancement along Route 60 and Route 199.

- A new recreational opportunity, Buddy Baseball, was developed for special needs in partnership with the Williamsburg Youth Baseball League.



- Social Services enhanced services for Spanish-speaking customers through staff training and more signage in Spanish.
- The Human Services Center added a children's computer, an electronic message board, more literature and educational programming using a DVD player in its "Learning Lobby."
- "Adoption...a New Step in Life" was written by volunteers and published to tell the story of adoption successes and how the adoption process works in the County.
- Flood-prone homes in Chickahominy Haven were elevated to avoid damage from future flooding using Federal and State grants.
- Housing and Community Development improved 30 homes for elderly and disabled residents, replaced two homes that were beyond repair, rehabilitated three homes to meet federal housing quality standards



Buddy Baseball Team

and completed emergency repairs on 22 homes.

- A total of 41 first-time homebuyers were assisted in the purchase of affordable homes, primarily through homes proffered by developers as part of rezonings.
- Street and drainage improvements, including curb, sidewalk and turn lanes, will enable construction of the 67-unit Parker View Elderly Apartments and affordable housing in Ironbound Square.
- A total of 37 families successfully leased housing with rental assistance and 42 families qualified for temporary rental, mortgage and/or security deposit assistance to prevent homelessness.
- County worked with developers to study traffic corridors, resulting in developer contributions and Federal grants for improvements to Monticello Avenue.



3 Plan responsibly for the needs of a growing, diverse community

- The new community building, 2007 Legacy Hall, overlooking Sullivan Square in New Town opened for use by governmental, civic, community groups and the general public.
- Warhill site development began for Warhill High School, the Thomas Nelson Community College Historic Triangle campus, the James City County Sports Stadium, multi-use fields, a multi-use trail, and future public facilities, using the Public Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act (PPEA).
- The Williamsburg Area Transport Authority – including James City County, York County, the City of Williamsburg, College of William & Mary and Colonial Williamsburg – is moving closer to begin operating as a regional transit authority in 2008.
- The County paid \$1.35 million to acquire 101 acres and preserve more than 22 acres of timberland and pastureland with a conservation easement in Stonehouse District.
- Chickahominy Riverfront Park opened a new playground and parking lot.
- Two new water tanks were built to improve water distribution.
- An annual fee to maintain sewer grinder pumps was implemented to outsource grinder pump maintenance to improve service.
- Colonial Community Corrections developed risk/need instruments to identify offender risk and needs to find ways to reduce recidivism.
- The Colonial Community Criminal Justice Board provided training for first responders to help them understand individuals with mental health disorders who come into contact with the criminal justice system.



2007 Legacy Hall

4 Steward the natural environment and historic heritage

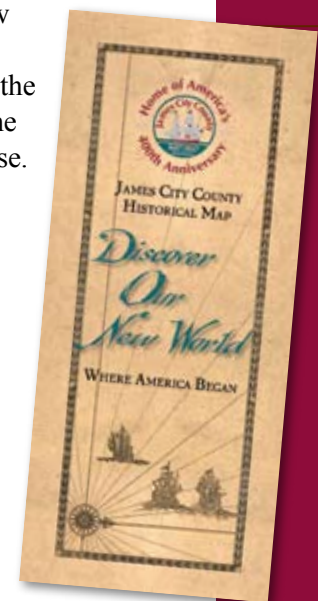
- Historical and cultural projects celebrated our heritage and community: the County’s first public art project “Voyage” in 2007 Legacy Hall, the County’s historical map “Discover Our New World,” the Williamsburg Area Arts Guide, JCC TV48’s Oral History Video Series and the mural “Arrival” painted by local artists at the Williamsburg/James City County Courthouse. The County’s sister city, Ipswich, England, loaned its Charter Hangings to display at the James City County Library and 2007 Legacy Hall.
- The County collaborated with The Trust for Public Land, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Dominion Foundation to acquire more than 200 acres at the Jamestown Campground and Yacht Basin, site of Anniversary Park during Jamestown 400th Anniversary commemoration events.



Jamestown Supervisor John McGlennon with mural “Arrival”



Sculptor Chad Bush with “Voyage”



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- An Environmental Recognition award program was started to recognize builders and developers who protect the environment during construction.
- The first replica of a 19th century free black domicile at Freedom Park was completed.
- Phase I of the Norge Train Depot relocation was completed. The renovated former depot will serve as a historic transportation building, significant tourist attraction and future meeting space for community groups.
- A citizen education effort on Resource Protection Areas was implemented by notifying property owners affected by mail and through a Chesapeake Bay workshop.
- A stormwater utility was created by the Board of Supervisors to help address stormwater quality and drainage problems.
- Conservation easements were acquired on the Whitehall Tavern property and the Perry/Branch property along Forge Road.
- Virginia Cooperative Extension's America's Anniversary Garden program resulted in beautification efforts with the theme of red, white and blue plantings supported by schools, businesses, garden clubs and others.
- Virginia Cooperative Extension's Turf Love surveyed lawns representing 91 neighborhoods and 43 acres of turf and provided education on reducing the use of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides that harm water quality.
- More than 2,300 citizens participated in the Taking Root Farm Tour to learn about local agriculture.
- The County partnered with VDOT and the Williamsburg Land Conservancy to complete the 7.5-mile Greensprings and Chickahominy multi-use trail.
- The County's 2007 Legacy Art Contest encouraged youth to create artwork commemorating America's 400th Anniversary.



Lafayette High School students Sara Abrahams (left) and Allyn Potts help tie red bows to celebrate purchase of Jamestown Campground

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Cromwell Ridge residents partner with PRIDE

- The County's PRIDE (Protecting Resources in Delicate Environments) program partnered with Cromwell Ridge Condominiums to plant wetland vegetation in a shallow marsh at their neighborhood's stormwater management facility (BMP), and repair flow channels at an inlet's storm drain inlets where markers were also installed throughout the neighborhood.
- PRIDE mini-grants of \$500 were awarded to Virginia Cooperative Extension and Kiskiack Golf Club to be used for watershed restoration, wetland planting, BMP restoration and tree planting.

5 Provide outstanding customer service

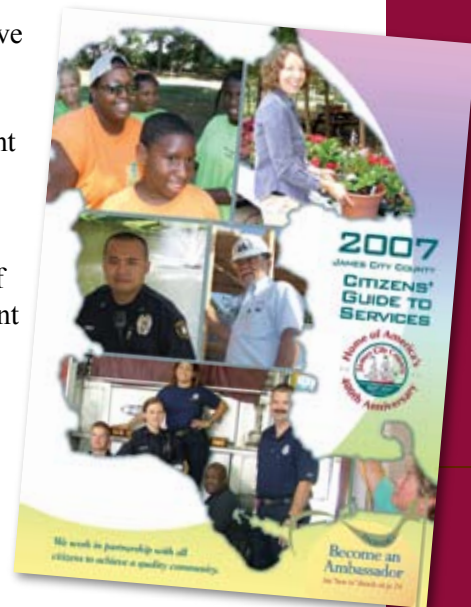
- Successful transportation shuttle service was provided May 11-13 during America's 400th Anniversary.
- Renovations were completed at the Emergency Operations Center and equipment installed for recording public information and implementing Web-based software to use during emergencies.
- Neighborhood Connections provided Prepare-Care-Share hospitality training to nearly 70 citizens in partnership with the Jamestown 2007 Host Committee, Thomas Nelson Community College Workforce Development and the Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance.



- Surveillance cameras for Williamsburg Area Transport buses will improve safety and security.
- Williamsburg Area Transport distributed a new bus schedule with a map highlighting area tourism, helping to boost ridership by almost 20 percent in FY07.

Award-winning programs

- The County and James City Service Authority received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. Both have earned this certificate for more than 20 consecutive years.
- James City County received the Virginia Clean Cities award for Leadership and Pioneering Efforts in Alternative Fuels.
- The 2007 Citizens' Guide, which featured photos highlighting County employees at work, received an award in the external publications category from the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO).
- The Police Department was awarded third place in the 2006 Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge for its traffic safety initiatives, including Virginia Smart, Safe and Sober.



Grants

Federal, State and local grants totaling more than \$23 million helped offset the County's costs for criminal justice, public safety, environmental efforts, youth programs and more.

Highlights include:

- Federal and State grants totaling nearly \$14.7 million will go toward the design, engineering and acquisition of right of way to relocate Route 60 East (Pocahontas Trail).
- Williamsburg Area Transport received \$5.1 million from Federal, State and local sources to begin service on Sunday in 2008, increase frequency of routes, start service to Surry County and to provide bus service for visitors to America's 400th Anniversary.
- The Police Department received Federal, State and local grants totaling more than \$150,000 for gang prevention, DUI enforcement, enhancing records management, funding a crime analyst position, purchasing youth bicycle helmets and other activities.
 - Fire/EMS received Federal, State and local grants totaling more than \$230,000 for improvements to the Emergency Operations Center, radiological preparedness, pandemic planning, hurricane planning and response and planning Jamestown 2007 events.
 - Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) awarded the County \$500,000 in VHDA Home Stride Program funds to provide special down payment assistance loans for 30 first-time homebuyers seeking to purchase homes.
 - Federal HOME Program Down Payment Assistance awarded \$283,000 in forgivable loan funds to help 18 low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers.
 - VHDA Sponsoring Partnerships and Revitalizing Communities (SPARC) Round 6 awarded \$5.5 million to the County to reserve low interest mortgages for 38 first-time homebuyers purchasing new homes in mixed income communities, including New Town, Ironbound Square, Liberty Crossing in Lightfoot and Chestnut Grove in the James River Enterprise Zone.
 - The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation awarded \$150,000 for a community conservation incentive program.



Firefighter David Belvin patrols during America's 400th Anniversary



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FY 2007 • July 2006 - June 2007
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Presort standard
 U.S. postage
 Williamsburg, VA
 Permit No. 129

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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 259-4025 or signing up for an electronic copy at www.jccEgov.com. JCC TV48 broadcasts Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission meetings. Now there are two places to watch JCC TV48: www.jccEgov.com and Cox Channel 48.

About the artwork

James City County's 2007 Legacy Art Contest attracted entries from students who were in grades 4-12 this past spring. Pictured below from left to front cover is artwork from Alex Shaw (Grade 7), Powhatan Indian Woman; Erin Gillespie (Grade 6), Nations United; Carla Schrader (Grade 7), Journey to a New Land; Katherine Twiford (Grade 5), The Arrival; and Mandy Bowers (Grade 9), Chepsin! (Algonquin for land.)

