



FYI for your information

Vol. 11 No. 1

October/November 1999

www.james-city.va.us

▼ in brief...

- **Disaster Relief** - Were you hit hard by Hurricane Floyd? County families and business owners may be eligible for disaster aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (*FEMA*). *FEMA* will provide assistance in the form of grants to help pay for temporary housing, minor home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. To request a disaster application, call toll free **1-800-462-9029** or **1-800-462-7585** (*TTY*) for the hearing and speech impaired.
- **Hotline Help 875-2424** - James City County has a 24-hour Emergency Hotline Number—**875-2424**. In the event of an actual emergency, the Hotline will detail conditions and give information on what to do and where to go. Check the number periodically to receive tips on general emergency preparedness.
- **Wireless 911** - Citizens using wireless telephones (*cellular, digital pagers, etc.*) should remember when they dial 911 on those devices, the call is answered by the State Police in Chesapeake. Therefore, when reporting an emergency via cellular phone, be sure and tell the State Police Dispatcher you want to be transferred to James City County. This transfer occurs immediately and a County dispatcher will assist you. If you have questions, call the Director of Emergency Communications at **566-0926**.

▼ did you know...

What makes James City County so unique?
Look for the series which begins in the next issue of *FYI*.

Printed on recycled paper.

every vote counts

On Election Day, November 2, voters will decide who fills seats in the Senate, 3rd District, The House of Delegates, 97th District, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Commissioner of the Revenue, Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff, Treasurer, Board of Supervisor seats in the Berkeley, Roberts, and Stonehouse Districts and School Board seats in the Berkeley, Roberts, and Stonehouse Districts.

The Polls are open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. . . . and a reminder, you must be registered in the precinct in which you live to vote. The Voter Precincts and Polling Places precincts are listed:

- **Berkeley A** - James City/Williamsburg Community Center, 5301 Longhill Road
- **Berkeley B** - Jamestown High School, 3751 John Tyler Highway
- **Jamestown A** - Clara Byrd Baker Elementary School, 3131 Ironbound Road
- **Jamestown B** - Rawls Byrd Elementary School, 112 Laurel Lane
- **Jamestown C** - Grace Baptist Church, 1013 Penniman Road
- **Powhatan A** - D.J. Montague Elementary School, 5380 Centerville Road
- **Powhatan B** - Norge Elementary School, 7311 Richmond Road
- **Stonehouse A** - Toano Middle School, 7817 Richmond Road
- **Stonehouse B** - York River Baptist Church/Fellowship Hall, 8201 Croaker Road
- **Roberts A** - Mount Gilead Baptist Church, 8660 Pocahontas Trail
- **Roberts B** - James River Elementary School, 8901 Pocahontas Trail

Absentee ballots are available to qualified voters unable to vote at their polling place on election day and to voters 65 and older. You have until Thursday, October 28 to return your Application for Absentee Ballot by mail or fax and until Saturday, October 30 to vote in person at the Registrar's Office. To get an application, call **253-6868**; fax **253-6875**; E-mail: rosej@james-city.va.us; or write **Voter Registration Office**

101-F Mounts Bay Road
P.O. Box 3567
Williamsburg, VA 23187-3567.

▼ happy halloween!

October

- 16 **Scarecrow Stuffing**, 10 a.m., James City/Williamsburg Community Center (JCWCC), 5301 Longhill Road. Volunteers are needed to assist participants with building scarecrows. Call 229-4362 if you can help.
- 29 **Spooky Movie Night**, 6 p.m., JCWCC and James River Community Center (JRCC) 8901 Pocahontas Trail.
- 30 **Haunted Forest**, 5:30-9:30 p.m., Upper County Park. Haunted Hayride, Frankenstein's Birthday Party, costume contests, clowns, and magic! Volunteers needed to assist with hayrides and registration.
- 31 **Sunday, October 31 is Halloween.** "Trick or Treating" is between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. and is for youth aged 12 years and younger. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call the Police Department at 253-1800.

For more information on the listed programs, call James City County Parks and Recreation at 259-3200.

▼ call us

Watch **On Line**, the County's live call-in show on the following Mondays, 7 p.m., on JCC Government Channel 36. Scheduled topics and dates (*subject to change*):

- October 11 **Y2K Update**
- November 22 **Economic Development**

▼ november closings

James City County Offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- November 11 - Veteran's Day
- November 25 and 26 - Thanksgiving

The James City/Williamsburg and James River community centers will be closed on Thanksgiving Day only. Transit buses will not operate Thanksgiving Day only.

▼ appeal deadline

Notices of Real Estate Assessments were mailed in August to property owners whose property has changed in value. If you feel your property has not been fairly reassessed—and you have already appealed to the Office of Real Estate Assessments—you have until November 3 to appeal to the Board of Equalization. For more information, call 253-6650.

easy pay system budget your real estate taxes on a monthly basis

Q *What is the Easy Pay System?*

A It's a preauthorized system that lets taxpayers spread payment of Real Estate Taxes out over the course of an entire year. The Easy Pay System lets you have your tax payments automatically deducted from your bank, savings and loan, or credit union account each month.

Q *How does the Easy Pay System work?*

A To participate, call the Treasurer's Office and request an application. You'll receive an individual analysis consisting of your real estate assessment information and a set of payment options. You're then offered a "suggested," but flexible pay plan. The County notifies your financial institution that you wish to have your tax payments drawn directly from your account. Your account is debited on the 5th day of each month, or you can choose to have the full amount of tax deducted on the tax due date.

Q *How will I know my financial institution paid my bill?*

A The automatic payment plan works like a check. Instead of receiving a canceled check with your monthly bank statement, the payment will appear as a line item on your statement. You will still receive a tax bill, but it will reflect the most recent payments and indicate any balance due.

Q *What much does it cost to participate?*

A The program is free, plus it saves you by not having to pay for checks, money orders, or postage. For more information on the program, call the Treasurer's Office at 253-6705.

new citizen orientation

James City County is offering its second New Citizen Orientation on **Saturday, October 30, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** at the James City/Williamsburg Community Center, 5301 Longhill Road. New residents can learn more about the County through a visual County Tour, brief history, overview of local government structure and processes, plus a question and answer period. Participants will receive a packet with valuable County information and have an opportunity to meet with the County Administrator. For more information and to register, call the Communications and Neighborhood Connections Office at 229-7630.

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▼ is your neighborhood connected?

The County maintains a list of neighborhood contacts for all communities participating in the Neighborhood Connections program. This list is extremely helpful in getting the word out to residents, who might be affected by adverse weather conditions or community-wide emergencies.

Call the Neighborhood Connections Office at **229-7630** to see if your neighborhood is connected. You can also check out the "Neighborhoods" link at the James City County web site, www.james-city.va.us on the Internet.

▼ neighborhood huddle '99

William and Mary's football team spent a day with 40 children at the **Centerville Resource Center** for Neighborhood Huddle '99. The team played outdoor games and read stories to the children. Along with a pizza lunch, the children received a Neighborhood Huddle '99 T-shirt. Team member **Mike Leach** organized the event.

Business sponsors included the Optimal Service Group, Ukrop's, First Market Bank, Custom Concrete, Colonial Sports, Seafare of Williamsburg, D.W. Cherry, D.D.S., Sal's Pizza, and By Design.



Junior Offensive Line player **Evan Ausband** reads a book to **Janea Graham**.

neighborhoods plan for emergencies

At workshops sponsored by the James City County Fire Department and Neighborhood Connections, 32 citizens representing 16 neighborhoods have taken the first steps in developing emergency plans for their neighborhoods. Neighborhoods were encouraged to develop plans enabling them to be self-sufficient for 72 hours in the event of a disaster, such as a hurricane.

Kings Village neighborhood has shared copies of its resources survey, and the **Fox Ridge** neighborhood has developed a neighborhood emergency plan. Neighborhood residents are encouraged to develop a plan unique to their community. On Saturday, October 23, 9 a.m. to noon, workshop participants are invited to the County Emergency Operations Center in Toano to observe first-hand the need to coordinate with overall County operations. Call Neighborhood Connections at **229-7630** for more information.

forest glen receives grant

The **Forest Glen/Centerville Neighborhood Association** celebrated receiving a \$500 Neighborhood Improvement Matching Grant by hosting *Family and Friends Day*. Their grant, *Centerville Summer Fun*, provided stipends for the coordination of youth activities, as well as activities for the children who participated. The neighborhood contributed over 271 hours valued at \$3,588.

● Editors: Veda McMullen, Barbara Watson
 ● Graphic Designer: Gene Canova
 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.

▲ FYI distribution

James City County
 Communications and Neighborhood Connections
 5248 Olde Towne Road, Suite 11
 Williamsburg, Virginia 23188-1923

FYI for your information
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Safety Graduates

Holding their certificates, graduates of the First Safety Awareness Program back row, left to right: Sharon Hamlin, Program Coordinator; Wilnette Moore, Shelia Jones, Tyrus Robertson, Deborah Robinson, and Wateina Hatchett. Middle row, left to right: Eric Jimmison, Donald Moore, Renee Dallman, Program Coordinator. Sitting, left to right: Kizzy Christian, Richard Levi Hatchett, Sandra Jimmison. Not pictured: Theodore Allen and Program Coordinator Orlando Carabello.

▼ board of supervisors

- Ron Nervitt 258-9669
 Powhatan District
 e-mail: ronn@james-city.va.us
- Jack Edwards 253-0266
 Berkeley District
 e-mail: jedwards@james-city.va.us
- John McGlennon 220-0568
 Jamestown District
 e-mail: jjmcgl@james-city.va.us
- David Sisk 220-3260
 Roberts District
 e-mail: dlsisk@james-city.va.us
- Andy Bradshaw 566-1282
 Stonehouse District
 e-mail: andybrad@james-city.va.us

▼ county administrator

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

centerville safety awareness program

Eleven residents from *Burton Woods* and *Forest Glen* completed the six-session Centerville Safety Awareness Program coordinated by the County Police and Fire Departments and Neighborhood Connections. The Awareness Program came about as a result of a citizen's request for more information on topics such as home security, personal safety, fire prevention, drug education, emergency dispatch, and fire extinguisher use.

At the August 19 graduation reception, participants received certificates, a first aid kit, a fire extinguisher, and a flashlight for their homes.