

Neighborhood Connections Annual Report 2008-2009

Neighborhood Connections was the driving force behind the 2008 Historic Triangle Neighborhoods Conference, which was hosted by James City County, York County and the City of Williamsburg. Building on the conference's theme, "Monumental Possibilities: Capitalizing on Collaboration," the conference aspired to foster new partnerships and collaborations with local government, community organizations, neighborhoods and local businesses in the Historic Triangle to regionally enhance networking opportunities. Participants had the opportunity to network with community exhibitors and hear stories from the porch, masterfully led by James City County's very own storyteller Dylan Pritchett. On Saturday, participants attended neighborhood building workshops focused on neighborhood identity, asset mapping, decision-making, communications, and emergency planning. The youth participated in civic engagement and public comment workshops. K-4 graders created the best neighborhood park, which was displayed for participants at lunch time.



Staff designed and published a board packet for association board of directors which contained "how-to" information on a variety of association topics, emergency preparedness and service providers.

As part of a special assignment, Neighborhood Connections partnered with General Services to assist with the coordination of Earth Day, Arbor Day and Spring Cleanup. Staff also prepared the annual Leaf Collection and Business Recycling Reports.



CLA graduates from left to right are: Charles Brewster, Lake Powell Forest; William Druschel, The Association of Stonehouse; Terry Bossieux, Scott's Pond; Hugo Reyes, Westmoreland; Paul Salvione, Ford's Colony; Tom Derrickson, Rolling Woods; Ella Bartlett, Ironbound Subdivision; Andrea Sarina, Heritage Landing; Deborah Kratter, Ford's Colony; and Philip Neubia, Bradshaw Ordinary. Not pictured are Karen Killian, Longhill Gate; Robert Marin, Villages of Westminster; William McCabe, Ford's Colony; Selene Pinkett, Ford's Colony; Brian Shortell, Colonial Heritage; and Angela Whitehead, Windsor Forest.

Sixteen citizens participated in the 2009 Citizen Leadership Academy (CLA). For the first time the academy showcased several different County departments.

Neighborhood Connections offered JCC 101 as the final session of the 2009 Citizen Leadership Academy. A total of 29 citizens participated in this day-long informative and educational program. Exhibitors included staff from Police, Fire, VA Extension, Parks and Recreation, Commissioner of Revenue, Voter Registration, Treasurer's Office, Environmental, James City Clean County Commission, JCSA, Planning and Code Compliance. Sandy Wanner gave a power point presentation and answered questions from the citizens. John Horne, Barbara Watson, and Tressell Carter guided the citizens as they toured the County facilities stopping at the office of Emergency Management, 911 Dispatch, JCC Library, Little Creek Reservoir Park, Building F Board Room, and Fire Station #2.

Over 400 preschool and after school age children learned about James City County during National Local Government Week. The program, “My James City County Hat – How What I Do Affects You and Your Family,” was aimed to help children understand County government and how various County services affect their daily life. After talking about their job, County staff then read a story to the children related to their job function.



At Neighborhood Day from left to right are: Mrs. Florence Moore, Jamestown District Board of Supervisor John J. McGlennon, Jere Long, Joan Bender, Rick Meyer, Philip Smead, Vice Chairman and Berkeley District Board of Supervisor Mary K. Jones, Dave Lehnertz, JCC County Administrator Sandy Wanner and Gwen Marshall.

Eighty citizens attended Neighborhood Day in June. The Robert L. Moore 2009 award and the 2009 Community Patriot recipients were announced. Philip Smead, Powhatan Community Services Association received the Robert L. Moore award. Joan Bender (Colonial Heritage), Dave Lehnertz (The Association at Stonehouse), Rick Meyer (The Mews) and Jere Long (Wexford Hills) received Community Patriot awards.

Neighborhood Connections partnered with Human Resources and the Fire Department to post the “Selection Process Information” on the NOWAC database. Over 150 applicants registered for participation.

Neighborhood Connections partnered with LeClair Ryan and Spirn, Tarley, Robinson, & Tarley to present Basic Legal Aspects and Legislative Review for homeowner associations. Over 65 citizens attended these two seminars.

Neighborhood Connections staff and the Neighborhood Liaison Team worked with the following neighborhoods assisting them to resolve board and neighborhood related issues: Great Woods/Sand Hill, Jamestown Hundred, Ironbound Village, Ironbound Square, Drummonds Field, Jolly Pond Citizens Group, Pocahontas Square and Westmoreland.